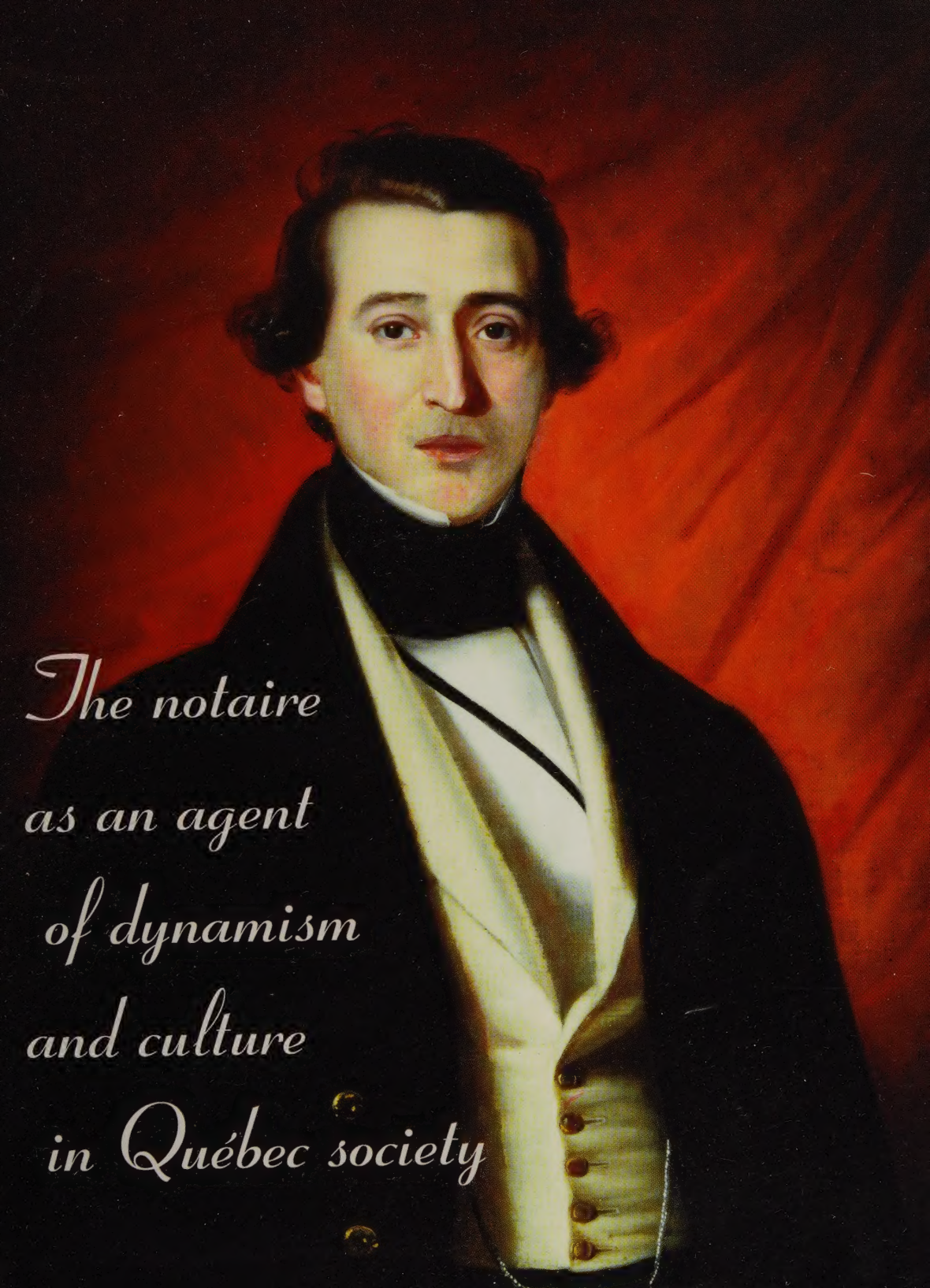
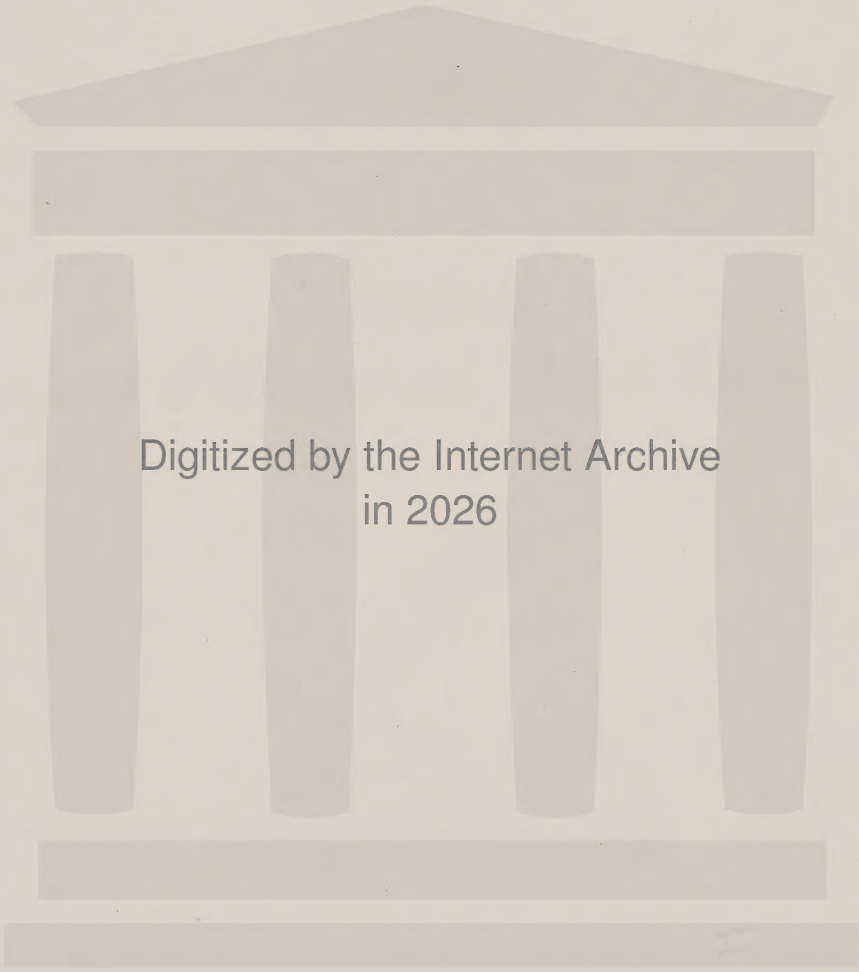

The notaire
as an agent
of dynamism
and culture
in Québec society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Hélène Lafortune **Normand Robert**

Translated by

Claire Quintal

The notaire as an agent of dynamism and culture in Québec society

Published by the Chamber of notaries of Quebec
to mark the 150th annversary of the first law
to organize the notarial profession
28 July 1847

Montréal

Joseph Laurin (1811-1888).
He authored the Law of 1847.
Antoine Plamondon,
Oil on cardboard, 1841.
Québec Museum (64.50).

The *notaire** as an agent of dynamism and culture in Québec society.
*** A *notaire* is a lawyer who deals with sales of real estate, with successions, marriage contracts, etc.**

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Preface

Woven from the strands of our history, inscribed in the very heart of our national identity, the notarial institution is the living *oeuvre* of many thousands of notaries who recorded throughout the centuries a fundamental dimension in the development of our society.

The notarial profession as an institution was transplanted from France to Canada to preserve the traces of the past and, in so doing, to bear witness to the social and economic emancipation of the community to which it belongs.

In this respect, the year 1997 marked an important milestone in the history of this profession, for it coincided with the 150th anniversary of the creation of the first Chambers of Notaries in July 1847.

This then was the moment chosen by Québec's Chamber of Notaries to offer the public an exhibit accompanied by a catalogue which recounts the significant role played by the notaries in their respective milieu.

I congratulate those persons who conceived the idea of mounting this exhibit on the occasion of the 150th anniversary as well as the authors for the wealth

and quality of their research. Such an accomplishment illustrates in an eloquent fashion the fact that notaries have always been agents of dynamism and culture in Québec society.

Denis Marsolais, notary
President
Chamber of Notaries of Québec

Introduction

Some have often dared to state that notaries pushed their concern for the past into becoming backward-looking and, for this reason, constituted a retrograde group, frozen in time.

What is not known is that notaries were involved in all of the major controversies of their day. Some of them mounted the scaffold; others succeeded in hoisting themselves into positions of power, at the local or national level, because of their liberal and innovative ideas.

In order to understand more clearly the role of paramount importance played by the notaries within the Québec community, the present exhibit sets out in its first section to focus upon them as persons and to make known the private lives of notaries before the first Chambers of Notaries were established in 1847. What class of society did they come from, what rank did they hold, what fortunes did they possess, what were their intellectual interests? It is quite evident that, as early as the XVIIIth century, dynasties of notaries already existed whose cohesion was able to be maintained throughout the country thanks to marital alliances which wove close ties among families with a notarial tradition.

As men engaged in business, administration, or cultural pursuits, the notaries of that epoch were conspicuous by a kind of omnipresence in all socio-professional sectors. They intervened on a multiplicity of fronts : economic, political, municipal, and cultural. As the second section of this exhibit makes clear, they were

sought after as consultants and enlightened mentors by all levels of society.

The present catalogue aims to give an idea of the variety of men to be found in the profession in French Canada, especially in the middle of the XIXth century, but also throughout its general evolution, spread out over nearly four centuries of history. May the reader try to see through them, the history of an entire profession born of the French Civil Code and who are a unique feature of French Canada's distinct society.

Acknowledgements

To Julien Mackay, Esquire, and Joël Honet, who reread, commented upon and corrected the present work where needed, we offer our expression of gratitude.

To Claire Quintal, founding director emerita of the Institut français of Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, who has translated this catalogue, we express our profound thanks.

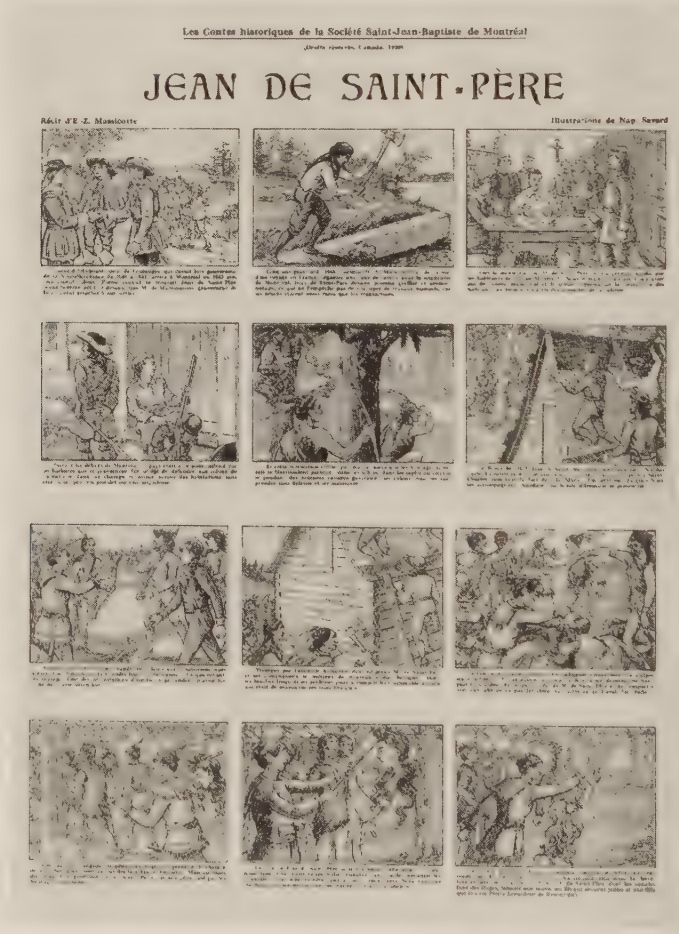
The Private Lives of Notaries

- I -

Towards the Consolidation of a Homogeneous Group

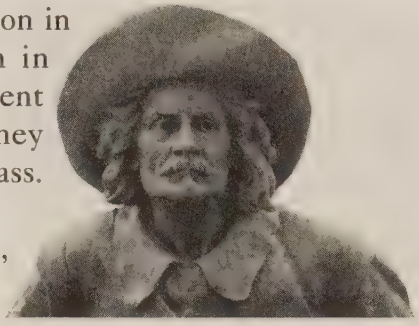
Cinq ans plus tard (1648), lorsque M. de Maisonneuve, de retour d'un voyage en France, organise une cour de justice pour la seigneurie de Montréal, Jean de Saint-Père devient premier greffier et premier notaire, ce qui ne l'empêche pas de s'occuper de travaux manuels, car les procès étaient aussi rares que les transactions.

The life of the first *notaire* and clerk of the court of Ville-Marie (Montréal), Jean de Saint-Père, is recounted here in a series of drawings recalling the beginnings of the city and the accomplishments of its pioneers. Saint-Père's life ended tragically—he was decapitated by the Iroquois during an attack on October 25, 1657.[1]



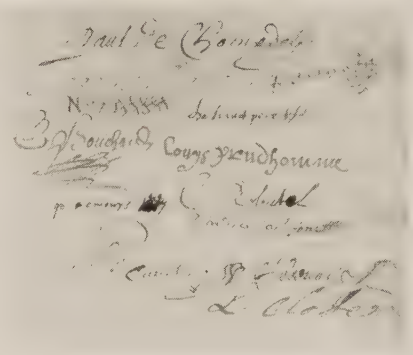
Comic strips entitled :
Les Contes historiques de la Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal - Jean de Saint-Père
(1920).
National Archives of Québec, Société Saint Jean Baptiste of Montréal Fonds.

During the first years of French colonization in North America, the notarial profession in Canada was composed of persons of different backgrounds and unequal competence. They did not constitute a homogeneous social class.



Imagined likeness of Lambert Closse. From the Maisonneuve Monument on the Place d'Armes in Montréal. Sculptor : Philippe Aubert.

Because of the lack of trained notaries, *seigneurs*, missionaries, court clerks, and surgeons were called upon to record the first contracts in the country and the wishes of the colony's pioneers. In fact, there were many types of notaries : royal notaries and seigniorial ones, each attached to these distinct entities. But, as early as 1663, regulations were set in place to control access to the profession. As a result of strict legislation issued by the mother country, only notaries commissioned by the king would remain in the colony.[2]



Signatures of Lambert Closse, Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve and Jeanne Mance. National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Lambert Closse Records, December 29, 1653 (CN-6010092\3616).

During the tragic hours of the beginnings of the French colonization of North America, Lambert Closse[3] one of Montréal's first tabellions [secretary or notary under the Old Regime in France], served as Acting Governor of the city from 1655 to 1657, in the absence of Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve, the city's founder. A man of great courage, recognized as the "Savior of Montréal" by his contemporaries, his mission was to protect the burgeoning colony against the Iroquois terror which was decimating the pioneer population. He held many official positions, notably those of seigniorial notary and sergeant-major of the Ville-Marie garrison. In those years of uncertainty, accomplished men were called upon to shoulder many responsibilities. They simultaneously held several important positions, including the drafting of notarial deeds. Lambert Closse was killed by a band of Iroquois as he was going to the rescue of some compatriots whose lives were in danger.

Jacques Imbert (1708-1765).
Anonymous, oil on canvas,
Château Ramezay Museum.

For a long time to come, the sparse population density and the small number of transactions to be concluded would obligate the notaries to engage in work more or less directly attached to their position as members of the legal profession.[4] The plurality of positions most often held by them were those of clerk of the court, notary, and surveyor. In this regard, Canadian notaries were no different from their French counterparts who, during the same period, also found themselves having to vary their sources of income to maintain their social position within their respective communities.[5]

At the close of the XVIII[th] century, major economic changes and demographic expansion transformed the scope of the notarial profession's practice, menaced for a time by the suspension of French law in 1763, re-established only in 1774 by the Québec Act. Henceforth, the new economic context characterized by the development of a capitalism based upon commerce and a monetary economy considerably expanded the operational base of notaries and lent itself to the consolidation of this social group which was becoming less and less heterogeneous.

In the middle of the XVIII[th] century, Jacques Imbert[6] concurrently held many positions : writer for the office of the *Intendant* (the French king's chief representative in Québec), royal notary, supplier to the government, delegate of the Navy's Treasurers General. In this capacity, he was vested with one of the most important missions in the administration of New France. Imbert returned to France at the time of the British Conquest in 1760.

By the start of the XIX[th] century, the notarial profession had grown by leaps and bounds. From that time on, the group is a relatively homogeneous one and, dating from that period, social ascent is a very important consideration. The notarial tradition is widespread throughout all of the regions of Lower Canada. Candidates for the profession come from either the legal circles or the moneyed classes of society composed of merchants, prosperous farmers, and members of other liberal professions.[7]

Cadastral map of the second register of landed property in the city of Montréal, 1795.
Louis Guy (1768-1850), pen, ink and tinted wash on paper.
Archives of the Sulpicians of Montréal, number 1523.

Scion of one of the most distinguished families of Montréal, the notary Louis Guy[8] had first trained as a surveyor before studying and becoming a practicing notary in 1801. Although he succeeded wonderfully as a notary, he concurrently held many other administrative positions, particularly those of justice of the peace and administrator as well as officer in the militia. Highly esteemed by government authorities, he was entrusted with very lucrative assignments as a surveyor and as a notary. At the end of his career, he was appointed to serve in the Legislative Council from 1830 to 1838.

Gallery of Portraits of the Panet Family

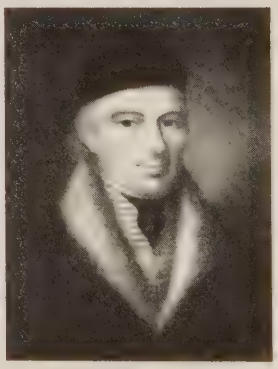
Jean-Claude Panet (1719-1778)*

Jean-Antoine Panet (1751-1815)*

In the XVII[th] and XVIII[th] centuries, government positions were handed down from father to son and from brother to brother. This was the case with the Panet family which achieved renown in Parliament and the military. Jean-Claude Panet,[9] who arrived in Canada in 1740, quickly became a public prosecutor and, in 1744, a royal notary. In 1778, his brother, Pierre-Méru Panet,[10] replaced him as a judge for the District of Québec. Each of their sons, Jean-Antoine and Pierre-Louis, who were notaries also, served in the Assembly created in 1793.[11] They both became judges in Montréal.

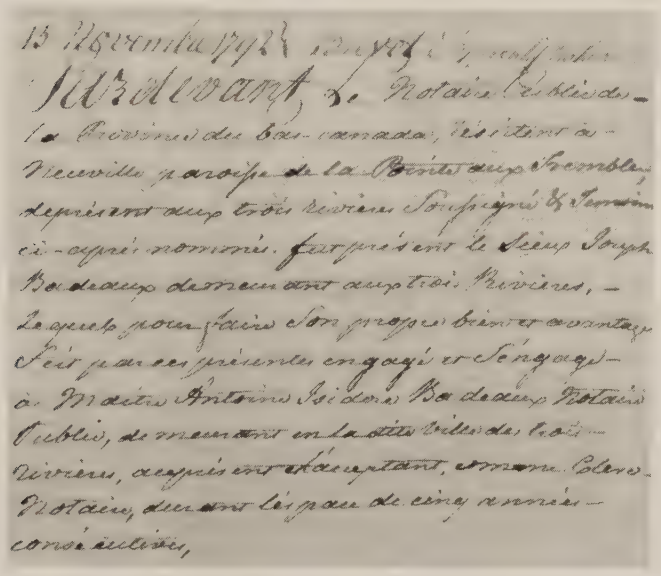
*** Portrait taken from the work of Pierre-Georges Roy, *Les juges de la province de Québec*, published by Service des archives du Gouvernement de la province de Québec, Québec 1933.**

Pierre-Méru Panet (1731-1804)*



Pierre-Louis Panet (1761-1812). François Malépart de Beaucourt, pastel on paper, 1794C, Musée du Québec (68.07).

The stability of the social circle was also consolidated by the bonds of marriage. Intermarriage between the sons and daughters of notaries were frequent. Socio-professional endogamy was practiced to such an extent that one can speak of actual dynasties of notaries some of which have endured to the present day. If the genealogical family trees of notaries since the end of the XVIII[th] century could be represented in all their ramifications, direct and collateral branches would be tightly and endlessly intermingled.



Excerpt from the clerkship certificate of Joseph Badeaux (1777-1835).
National Archives of Québec, François-Xavier Larue Records, November 13, 1792 (SP 97-013).

Joseph Badeaux[12] belonged to a family in which it was traditional to become a notary. He was the son of Jean-Baptiste Badeaux, a notary of great prominence in Trois-Rivières. At the age of fifteen, he was apprenticed to his brother, Antoine-Isidore, also a notary. In 1802, he married Geneviève Berthelot, herself the daughter of a notary. He is an outstanding example of the close ties which existed among families of notaries.

Five generations of Larue Notaries

François-Xavier
(1788-1843)*

Augustin
(1804-1847)*

Vildebon
(1831-1873)*

V.-Winceslas
(1873-1906)*

S.-Jules
(1904-1960)*

*years as practicing notaries

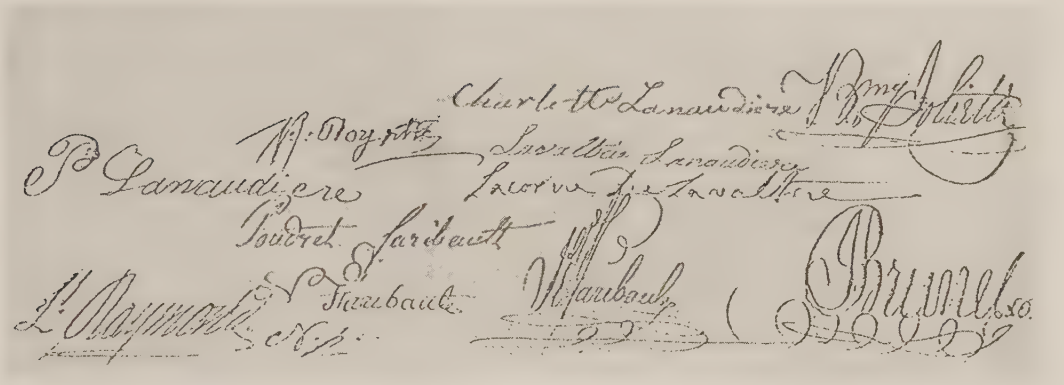
V.-Winceslas Larue (1881-1960).
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Québec Chamber of Notaries Fonds (P183/17).

Many members of the Larue family entered the profession : five generations of direct descendants did so, starting with François-Xavier Larue who took the oath in 1780.[13] This long line of notaries boasted among its members the Honorable V.-W. Larue, president of the Québec Chamber of Notaries from 1891 to 1894. Other families also hold similar records because so many of their members became notaries. The Archambault, Doucet, Faribault, Lamarche, Mackay, Papineau, etc., families have carried on the notarial tradition to the present day.[14]

It is also true that notaries sought to consolidate their social standing by entering into prestigious marriages with other members of the local élite or even sometimes with the most representative families of the nation. The choice of marital partners was limited to certain types of privileged professions and the "matrimonial pool" tended to be more and more restricted as the XIXth century progressed. Through marriage, the notary became an integral part of an extended family network whose relationships were constantly being extended during his lifetime thus revealing the matrimonial strategies specific to the higher classes.[15]

Barthélemy Joliette (1789-1850). Vital Desrochers. Oil on canvas, 1838, Joliette Art Museum.

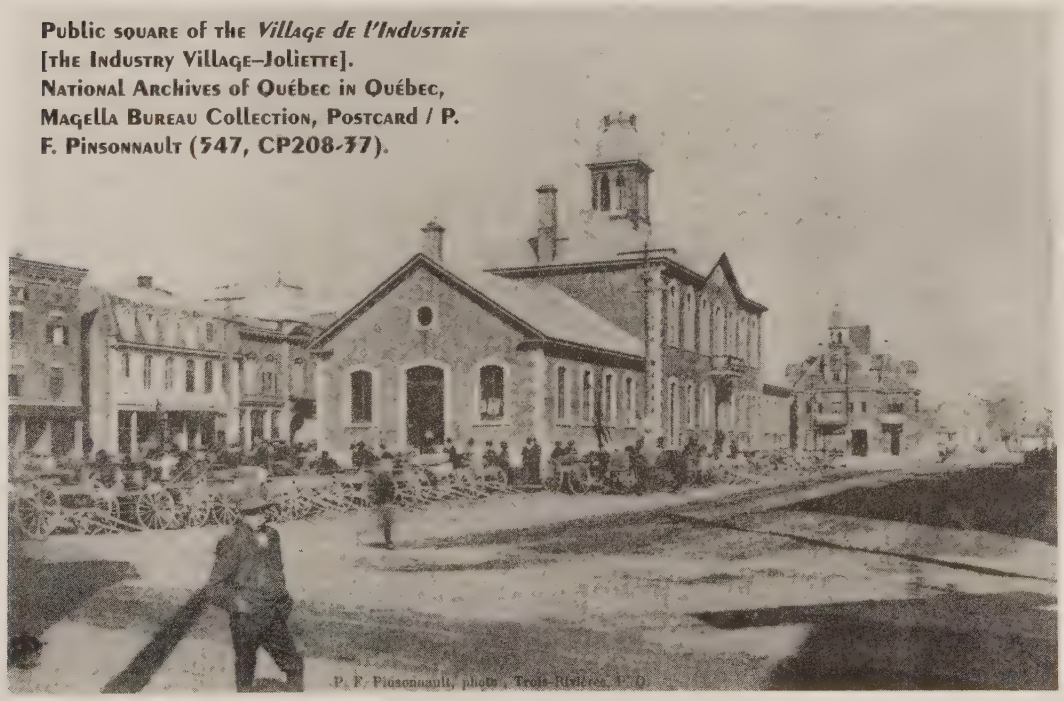
Madame Barthélemy Joliette, *née* Marie-Charlotte Tarieu Taillant de Lanaudière. Vital Desrochers. Oil on canvas, 1838, Joliette Art Museum.



The profession had in its ranks many very important persons who married into the most illustrious families of Lower Canada. On September 27, 1813, Barthélemy Joliette[16] married Charlotte Tarieu Taillant de Lanaudière, "Lady" of the seigniory of Lavaltrie. He would later manage his wife's domain and, in the years which followed, he founded the "Industry Village," now known as Joliette. Such prestigious marriages helped to consolidate the social standing of many notaries.

Signatures appended to the marriage contract between Barthélemy Joliette and Charlotte Tarieu Taillant de Lanaudière. National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Joseph Brunelle Records, September 18, 1813 (CN-6050011).

Public square of the *Village de l'Industrie* [the Industry Village–Joliette]. National Archives of Québec in Québec, Magella Bureau Collection, Postcard / P. F. Pinsonnault (547, CP208-37).



Sons and Daughters of Notaries

Madeleine Ferron, daughter of Joseph-Alphonse Ferron, notary from 1915 to 1947,[17] made her name as a writer. Private collection.

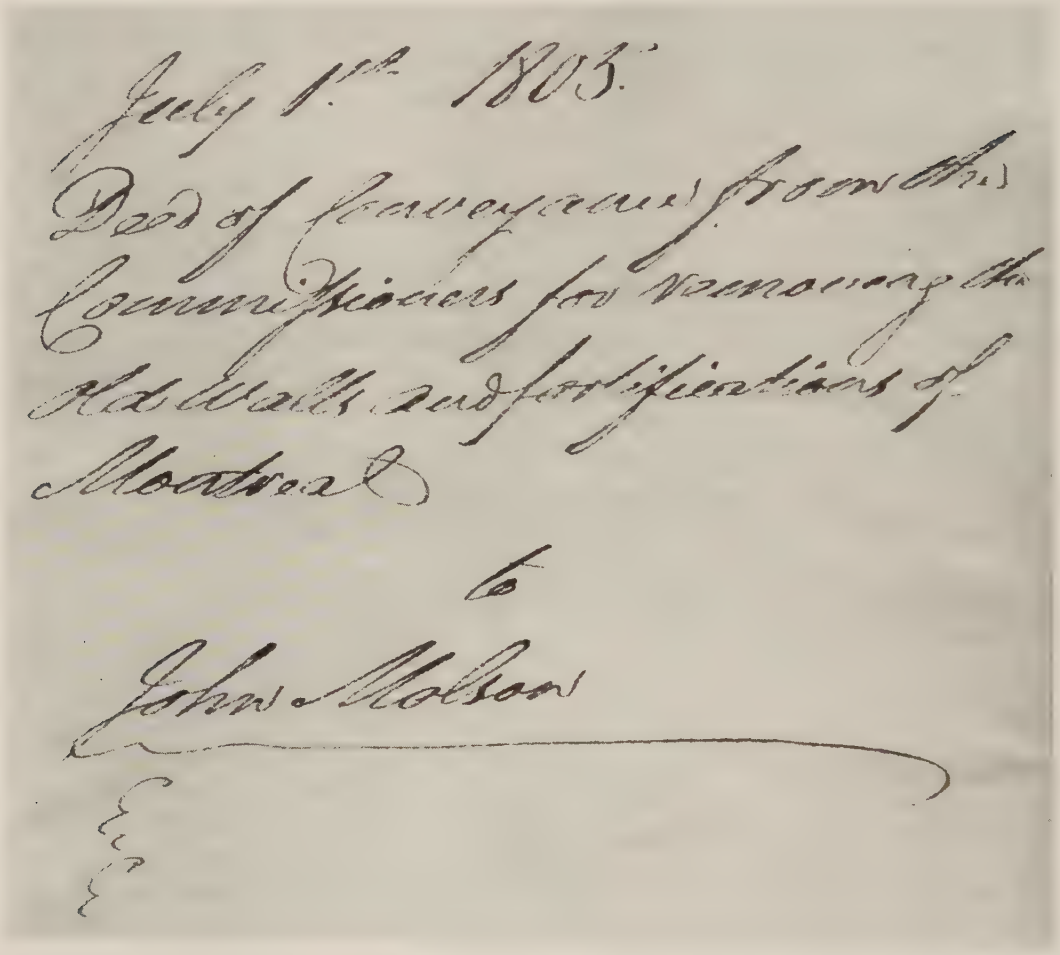
Judith Jasmin, daughter of Amédée Jasmin, notary from 1907 to 1961,[18] became a well-known journalist. Archives of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Jean Marchand, son of Gustave Marchand, notary from 1908 to 1922,[19] was a union activist, minister, and Liberal Party senator. National Archives of Québec in Montréal, newspaper *Le Jour* fonds, P-348.

Finally, whatever might have been the disparities in social standing among the notaries and the qualitative differences among them, an examination of their marriages demonstrates that the majority of them belonged to families which were in possession of a pre-existing patrimony not only of money but also of prestige and education. Until the classical colleges were founded—which would ensure their homogeneity as a social group—notaries were trained within the family circle. Thus, the moral heritage of notarial families was not limited to imparting training for the practice of the profession—as attested by the certificates of clerkships and apprenticeships for the profession—the formative influence of the family was multifaceted. It was all the more determinant because we are in the presence of a privileged milieu distinguishing itself more and more by its way of life and thinking whose effects would be felt up to the XXth century.

- II -

The Profession As It Was Lived


July 1st 1805.
Deed of Conveyance from the
Commissioners for removing the
old walls and fortifications of
Montreal
to
John Molson

July 1, 1805. Deed of Conveyance from the Commissioners for removing the old walls and fortifications of Montréal to John Molson. National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Louis Chaboillez Records, July 1, 1805 (CN-6010074).

Louis Chaboillez[20] (1766-1813) is an example of a very active notary, involved in the economic affairs of his day. He numbered among his clientele both independent dealers and important commercial enterprises like McTavish, Parker, Ogilvy, etc. The business elite experienced an ever-increasing need of the juridical competence of the notaries for conducting their sometimes complex economic ventures. Among others, James McGill and Isaac Todd used his services to record the *voyageur* contracts for those voyagers going West. The contract for the demolition of Montréal's old walls, under the supervision of James McGill, for the embellishment of the city, was recorded by this notary.

The function of a notary did not begin to be clearly distinguished from that of other legal offices before the second half of the XVIIIth century. A 1785 ordinance of the lieutenant governor forbade the plurality of office-holding in the legal field. Each profession—in this case, that of notary—would henceforth have to be practiced independently one from the other.

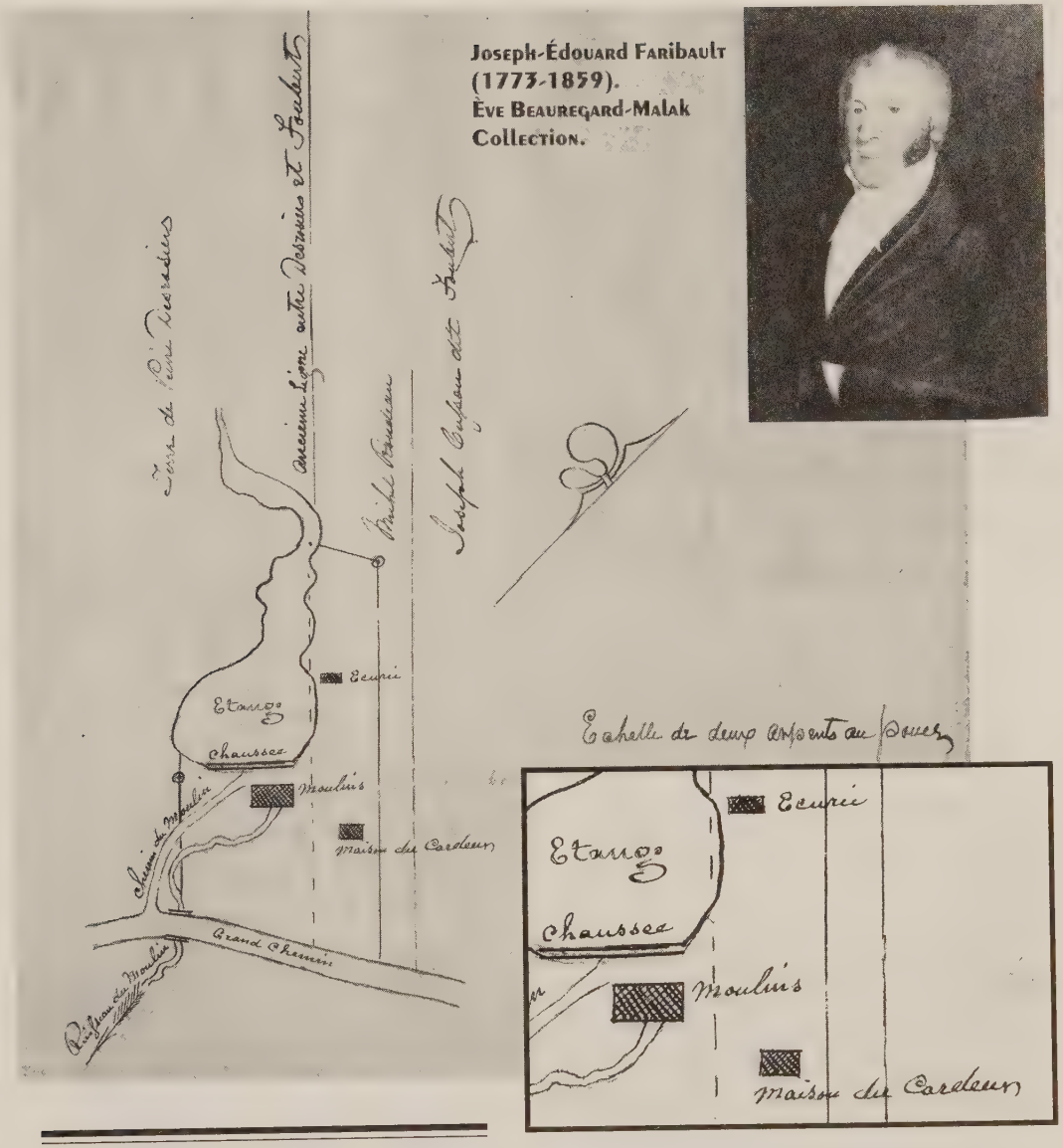
The wall of Montreal seen from Saint Hélène Island. L.-R. Batchelor. National Archives of Canada, Division of Iconography.

This would not prevent the notaries from investing in diverse activities and to take a very active part in the economic life of the country. An examination of professional activity in the middle of the XVIIIth century is quite revealing on this score and makes clear the tendency of notaries to devote, even then, as much time to economic and financial affairs as to family matters.[21]

It should be remembered that the economic dynamic which was emerging at the end of the XVIII[th] century—paralleling the demographic expansion—would have important repercussions on the professional lives of notaries. They would, henceforth, be the beneficiaries of a constantly increasing clientele, in the countryside as well as in the city, which guaranteed a very comfortable revenue stream for them. Notaries who practiced in the cities of Québec and Montréal moved in business circles and were in a position to benefit from having good contacts for investing their money and earning excellent returns on it.[22]

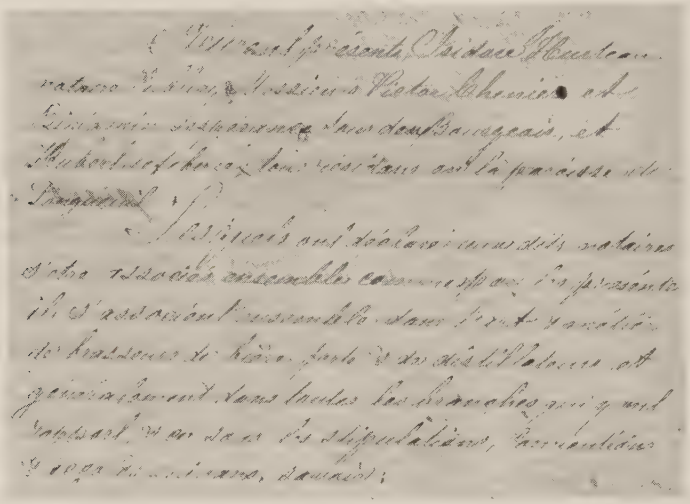
On the whole, they invested in real estate which often ensured a large portion of their income. Furthermore, their land holdings—either inherited or acquired during their lifetime—were quite considerable. Following the lead of the commercial elite of the period, they very often leased out their lands in order to draw additional sources of revenue from their cultivation. Many of them engaged in developing *seigneuries* or served as colonization agents or as administrators on behalf of certain *seigneurs*—all the while leading very active professional lives. Others preferred to invest in the lucrative lumber trade, becoming veritable entrepreneurs. During the golden age of the lumber industry, notaries operated sawmills and managed the by-products of these mills. Starting in 1840, the upheaval in modes of transportation, especially the expansion of railroads, would also be of interest to certain notaries, notably Barthélemy Joliette [23] in the city founded by him, and Télesphore Normand [24] in Trois-Rivières, each of whom engaged in public works' projects as contractors.

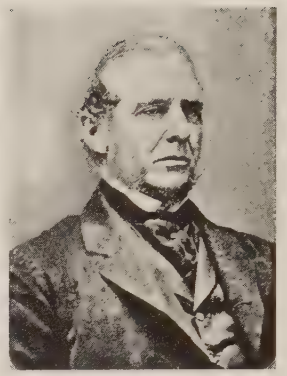
Joseph-Édouard Faribault (1773-1859). Ève Beauregard-Malak Collection.



Although very active as a notary, Faribault was also the proprietor of many sawmills, gristmills, and carding mills north-east of Montréal. He even enjoyed a monopoly on these ventures. He was one of those for whom the "Golden Age" of the town of L'Assomption was extremely profitable in his capacity as a businessman quite as much as in his activity as a notary.[25]

Blueprint or Map from a report showing the boundary markings of a site in the Parish of Lanoraye known as the *Emplacement du Moulin* [Location of the Mill]. Sawmills and carding mills had been erected there.
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, James Dignan Records, September 21, 1850 (CA-6030002\001).



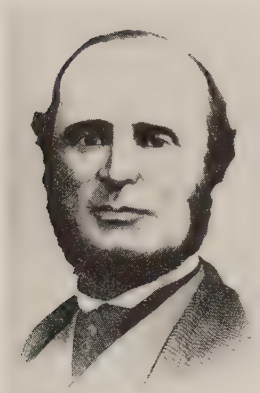


Isidore Hurteau (1815-1879).
Longueuil Historical Society Collection.

Excerpt taken from the contract between and among Isidore Hurteau, Victor Chénier, Benjamin Lespérance and Hubert Lespérance for the operation of a brewery in Longueuil.
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Charles-Emmanuel Belle Records, September 14, 1846 (CN-6010030).

Admitted as a notary in 1838, Isidore Hurteau[26] practiced his profession in Longueuil where he played a prominent role. Deeply involved in the economy of this city, he founded, along with other leading citizens of Longueuil, an navigation company and a corporation for the construction and operation of a brewery. However, the rise of Temperance Societies at that time ruined these new commercial enterprises, including those of the notary Hurteau.[27] He was also the first mayor of Longueuil, and co-owner of the Montréal daily newspaper *La Minerve*. Arthur Dansereau, his son-in-law, was the chief editor of the paper.[28]

Longueuil in 1863.
Drawing by Carlo Italiano from a photograph by William Notman.
Édouard Doucet Collection.



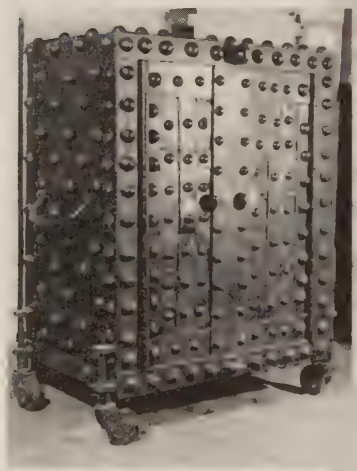
Philippe-Napoléon Pacaud (1834-1883). Engraving. National Archives of Québec in Québec, André Hamel File (P1000, S4, D2688, PP1).

The development of a monetary economy during this same period resulted in an influx of money into the coffers of the notaries. The importance of credit transactions now became of paramount importance the length and breadth of Lower Canada, in the countryside as well as in the cities, and the notary occupied an important position as both a collector and distributor of credit. In his role as a financial middle-man, he mitigated the problems caused by the lack of a banking system. If someone wanted to borrow money, the notary found him a lender and played, as best he could, the role assumed nowadays by financial institutions. In the XIXth century, notaries would even be founders of banks, notably Philippe-Napoléon Pacaud[29] in Saint-Hyacinthe and Edme Henry[30] in Laprairie.

The notary, Philippe-Napoléon Pacaud,[31] was one of the principal administrators of the Canadian Bank of Saint-Hyacinthe, founded by his brother Charles-Adrien and his brother-in-law, Dr. Pierre-Claude Boucher de la Bruère. Pacaud, the notary, is quite representative of the notaries of that period as much for his economic dynamism as for his political ideas. He participated, among other activities, in the creation of a section of the *Fils de la liberté* [Sons of Liberty] in Saint-Hyacinthe. This was the revolutionary association which led to the Rebellions of 1837-1838. He had proposed to the leaders of the *Patriotes* to circulate banknotes, redeemable by the nation after conquering its independence, in order to finance this battle for total power. However, the confrontations between British troops and the *Patriotes* took place too soon for him to issue these banknotes whose objective was the sum of $300,000.

Paper money issued by the Canadian Bank of Saint-Hyacinthe bearing the signature of Philippe-Napoléon Pacaud. Normand Robert Collection.

Excerpt of the Partnership Agreement for the creation of a bank in Laprairie between Edme Henry (1760-1841), esquire and notary, and Madame Marie-Cléotilde Pinsoneault, wife of François Baby, esquire, and Laurent-Auguste Moreau, esquire.
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, François-Médard Pétrimoulx Records,
June 5, 1837
(CN-6040033\438).

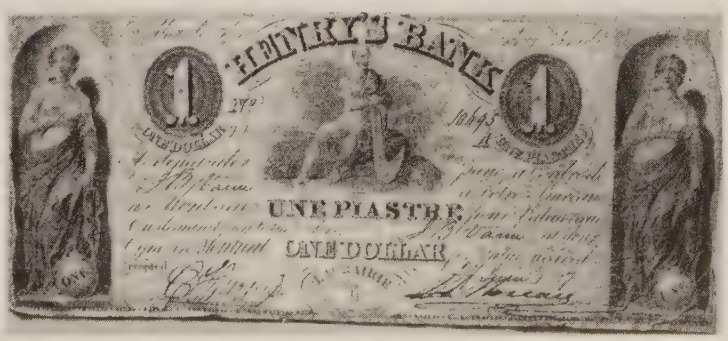


Antique bolted safe having belonged to Stanley Clark Bagg (1820-1873), a Montréal notary.
Château Ramezay Museum.

Engraving of the steamship Edme Henry. View of the Harbour. Lithograph Bourne, 1830.
Caron, Bélanger, Ernst and Young Collection.

Before founding Henry's Bank at Laprairie in 1837, the notary Edme Henry[32] had engaged in real estate development and many commercial enterprises. Henry's Bank also had a branch in Montréal. This large-scale enterprise would, however, end in disaster for Henry; that very summer, the bank's chief executive officer ran off, taking with him the bank's till, evaluated at close to $130,000. This forced Henry to declare bankruptcy during that same year. His property holdings having made him wealthy, he was able to pay off his debts. Owner of a steamship named the *Edme Henry*, he was the archetypal notary-businessman.

Banknote of Henry's Bank with the signature of the notary Edme Henry.
Château Ramezay Museum.



Louis-Auguste Dupuis (1884-1967).
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Québec Chamber of Notaries Fonds (P183/48).

We have come a long way from the traditional image of the notary whose basic activity consists in drawing up marriage contracts and wills. From the XVIIth century to the XXth, the Canadian notarial profession underwent profound changes. At the time of the emergence of the first Chambers of Notaries in 1847, its image was already that of an increasingly professional body involved in economic affairs and amazingly open to the new ideas inspired by the French Revolution.

Eugène Poirier (1891-1960).
Private Collection.

Adélard L'Heureux (1894-1974).
Private Collection.

In the XXth century, notaries played a leading role in the development of the *Caisses populaires* Desjardins[33] [Credit Unions] as founders, promoters, managers of, and legal counselors to this cooperative banking movement.

The notary Dupuis[34] was secretary and manager of the Caisse populaire Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière from 1913 to 1925. From 1942 to 1945, he served as president of the Chamber of Notaries of Québec.

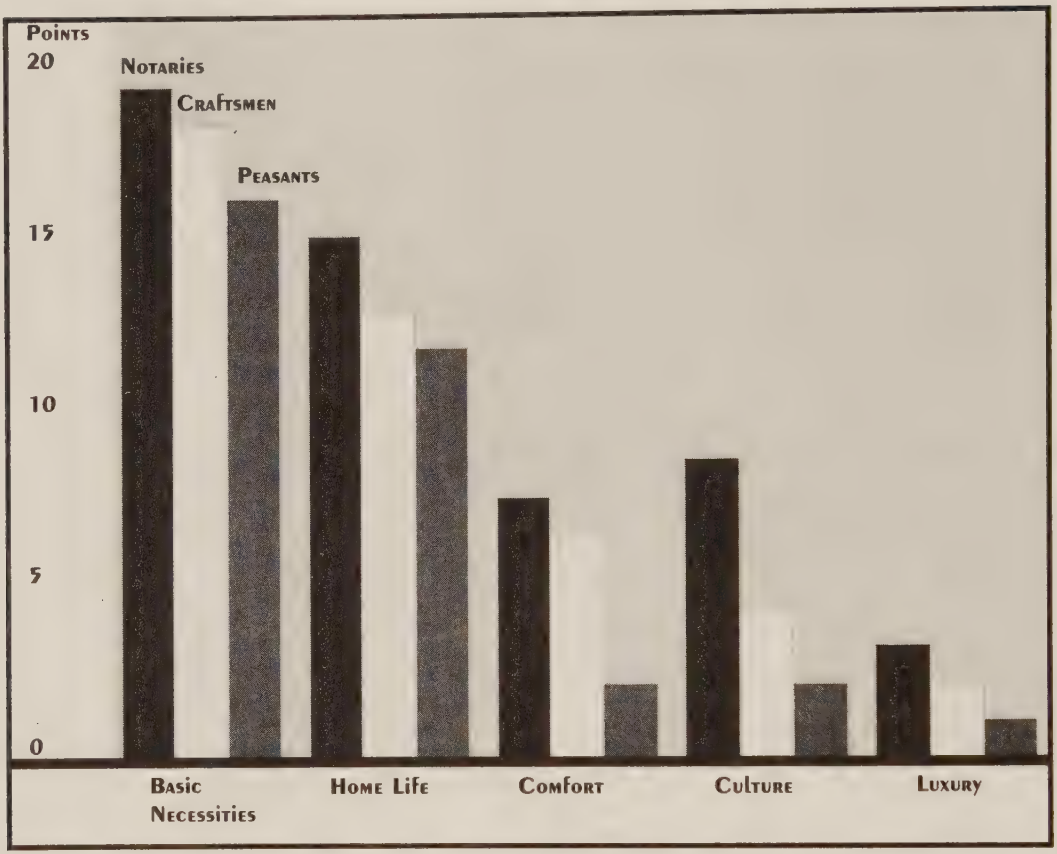
The notary Poirier[35] was the first president of the Caisse populaire Sainte-Cécile, founded in 1918 in Montréal-North. He would later become president of the *Union régionale de Montréal* and finally president of the *Fédération des Caisses populaires* Desjardins of the Province of Québec.

The notary L'Heureux[36] was for many years the accredited notary of Saint-Ambroise de la Jeune Lorette. He successfully promoted the founding of the *Caisse populaire* of Loretteville which, from 1936 to 1960, was housed next to his office.

- III -

At Home

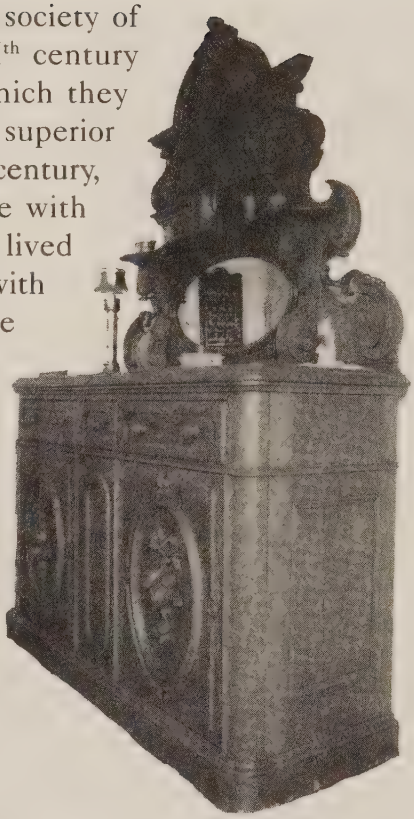
Comparative Chart Indicating the Standard of Living



Comparative Chart Indicating the Standard of Living of Notaries, Craftsmen, and Peasants. Basic Necessities / Home Life / Comfort / Culture / Luxury.

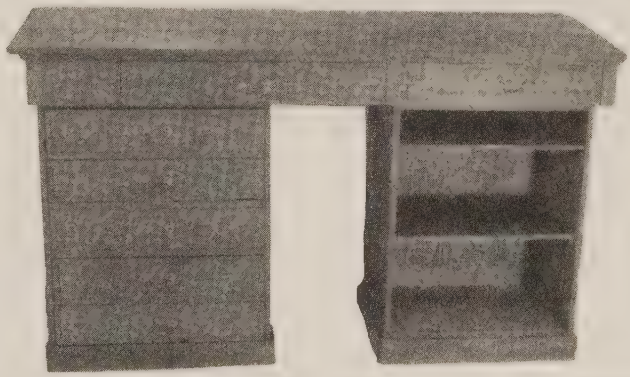
This study,[37] based primarily on household inventories compiled after the death of notaries who passed away between 1700 and 1800 in the District of Montréal, clearly shows that notaries were already enjoying a much higher standard of living than craftsmen or farmers. They occupied a privileged position in society because of their access to credit and their store of knowledge.

The expanding role of the notaries in the society of Lower Canada from the end of the XVIII[th] century conferred upon them a financial power which they converted into material surroundings quite superior to that of ordinary citizens.[38] In the XIX[th] century, notaries inhabited buildings commensurate with their prestige. In the country, they generally lived with their families in two-story stone houses with a large yard and an equally large garden. Those who moved in business circles in the cities of Montréal and Québec owned spacious residences. Behind the obvious diversity of their respective situations with regard to material possessions, can be discerned a constant feature of their private lives, that of being imbued with refinement and culture.



A dining room sideboard acquired at the end of the XIX[th] century by Paul-Arthur Séguin, notary at L'Assomption.
France Laferrière-Cordeau Collection.

One possible way of approaching the intellectual life of notaries is to examine books and other cultural paraphernalia such as musical and scientific instruments. Whatever their value or their number, these cultural artifacts, which lack all material necessity, are, like art objects, laden with significance because they represent personal and deliberate choices. Some of these possessions may have been inherited but, generally speaking, they can be considered as undeniable witnesses of learning and culture.

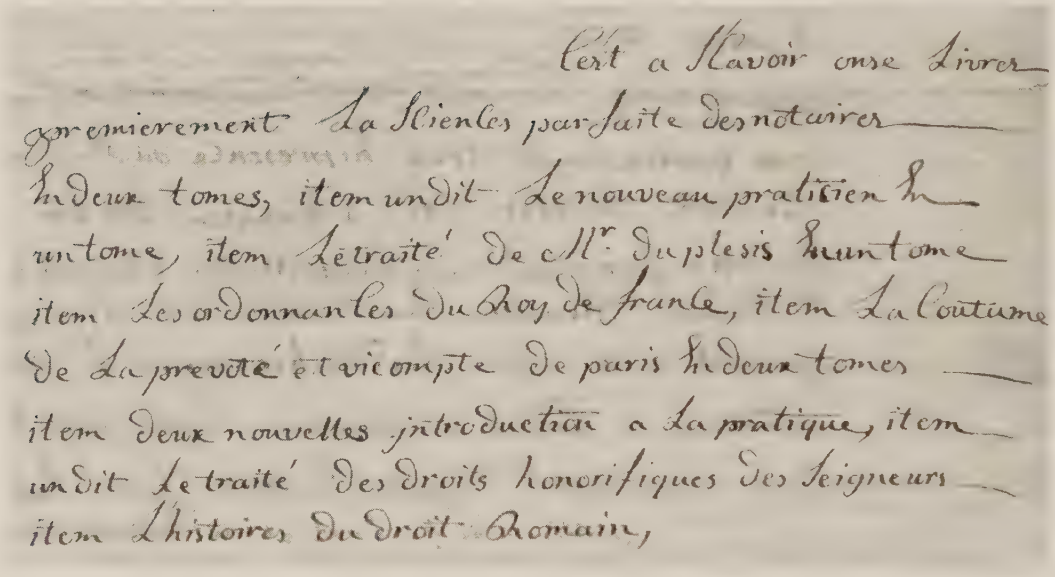


A notary clerk's desk acquired by Rodolphe E. Mackay, notary in Verdun.
Julien S. Mackay, Esquire, Collection.

Personal Libraries

The presence of libraries in the homes of notaries is a reality. They contained a large number of books which is truly significant in an age when illiteracy was the lot of the majority of the population.

The estimation of the value of books at post-death inventories enables us to examine the

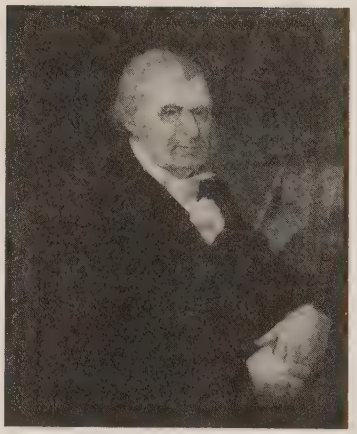


C'est a Savoir onze Livres
premierement La Sciences parfaite des notaires
En deux tomes, item un dit Le nouveau praticien En
un tome, item Le traité De Mr. Duplessis En un tome
item Les ordonnances Du Roy de france, item La Coutume
De La prevoté et vicomte De paris En deux tomes
item Deux nouvelles introduction a La pratique, item
un dit Le traité Des Droits honorifiques Des Seigneurs
item L'histoires Du Droit Romain,

Excerpt from a sale of books on the profession by Louise Pépin, widow of Antoine Crespin, notary in the parish of Château-Richer, to Antoine Crespin, notary in the parish of Château-Richer, her son. National Archives of Québec in Québec, Louis Miray Records, September 26, 1783 (CN-3010200\0015).

contents of these libraries and to understand the intellectual preoccupations and the areas of interest of the notaries. Along with some volumes on law which could be found in the homes of notaries at the start of the XVIIIth century, large libraries, containing books on a variety of subjects, would be constituted as trade in books developed.

At his death, Joseph Papineau[39] owned a library of more than 200 volumes. Among his holdings were books on French and English law as well as some reflecting his socio-political beliefs as a Liberal open to the ideas of the philosophers of the Enlightenment. His son, Louis-Joseph, the famous *Patriote*, was also one of French Canada's greatest bibliophiles, always on the lookout for rare and old editions.[40]



Joseph Papineau (1752-1841). Louis Dulongpré. Oil on canvas, National Archives of Canada.

Et le vingt huitième jour du mois de
décembre de la même année il a été
continué de procéder au présent
inventaire en présence des parties
ci dessus dénommées

Les livres

Dans une cause n° 7 —

Sydenham theorie en quatre
volumes cinq chelins — " 5.. "

Dictionnaire de Mathemati-
que en quatre volumes pareil 2.. 6

Voyage de cook avec Pittas
en dix volumes, le tout six
chelins. 6.. "

Troisième voyage de cook en
huit volumes, huit chelins. 8.. "

Vie de Descarte en volume
broché sans. 1.. 3

Histoire véritable des temps
fabuleux en trois volumes
trois chelins. 3.. "

Dictionnaire de Physic cinq
volumes cinq ~~volumes~~ chelins 5.. "

Histoire Philosophique de
Raynal dix volumes et
atlas dix chelins le tout. 10.. "

Récréations Mathematiques
en quatre volumes quatre
chelins. 4.. "

Grammaire de Port Royal
sans. " 6

Pharmacopée générale deux
volumes garnis de sans. 1.. 6

Dictionnaire de la conservation
de l'homme deux volumes
garnis de sans. 1.. 8

Excerpt from the inventory after death of Joseph Papineau. National Archives of Québec in Montréal, André-Benjamin Papineau Records, December 27, 1841 (CN-601\310\7749).

The importance of the shelf space taken up by books on legal questions throughout the XIX[th] century should be noted. These encompassed many "tools of the trade" : treatises on law, dictionaries of jurisprudence, etc.[41] Devotional books also occupied a place of choice and they clearly illustrate the religious context of the era. Great literature was also represented in these libraries; some Greek and Roman authors, but especially French classical writers of the XVII[th] century : LaFontaine, Molière, Racine, Boileau, etc. The works of Voltaire and Rousseau were also to be found on the shelves of their libraries, proof that the notaries were aware of the dominant ideas of that time and had been affected by the revolutionary thinking of the philosophers of the Enlightenment.[42] Some notaries were also collectors; the library of Pierre-Louis Deschenaux was so extensive, nearly 1500 volumes, that it must surely have been one of the most impressive in the city of Québec at the start of the XIX[th] century.[43] In Montmagny, Jean-Charles Letourneau's[44] library was also noteworthy for it contained a section of rare books as did the collection of Jean-Joseph Girouard[45] of Saint-Benoît which burned, unfortunately, during the Troubles of 1837-1838. Victor Morin's[46] library—acquired from the estate of Trefflé Berthiaume, the first director of the newspaper *La Presse*—should also be singled out, for it was without a doubt the most important private library in Canada.

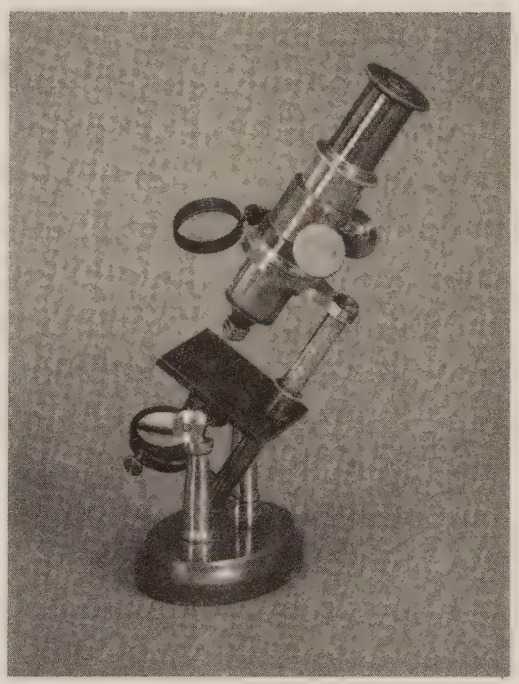
ANTIQUE GLOBE OF THE WORLD FROM THE *TRÉSORS DES ARCHIVES NATIONALES DU CANADA*, LES ÉDITIONS DU SEPTENTRION, QUÉBEC, 1992, P. 69.

Among other intellectual interests of the notaries, history and the sciences should be mentioned. Scientific works, although not in widespread circulation on the whole, were not, for all that, absent from the libraries of notaries. They express, however, very personal cultural interests and attest

to a wide-ranging intellectual curiosity. In a world where printed materials were not yet widely disseminated, the pre-eminence of the book as an implement of knowledge, symbolizes a learned and privileged segment of society—all the more so since the other "instruments" of culture were rare in French-Canadian households.

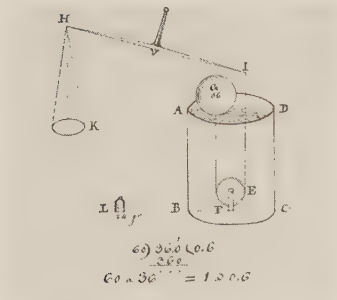
Scientific Instruments

Well before the teaching of the sciences was constituted in French Canada, some notaries, conscious of the progress and the broadening of knowledge that Europe experienced at the end of the XVIIIth century, owned scientific instruments to conduct their own personal research. The Seminary of Québec was, no doubt, responding to the needs as well as the interest shown by this elite, composed for the most part of members of the liberal professions, when, as early as 1770, it set up a proper physics laboratory, the equal of those found in Europe.[47] This broadening of the teaching dispensed by the colleges would contribute even further to the intellectual curiosity of the notaries for everything that touched upon the natural and applied sciences.



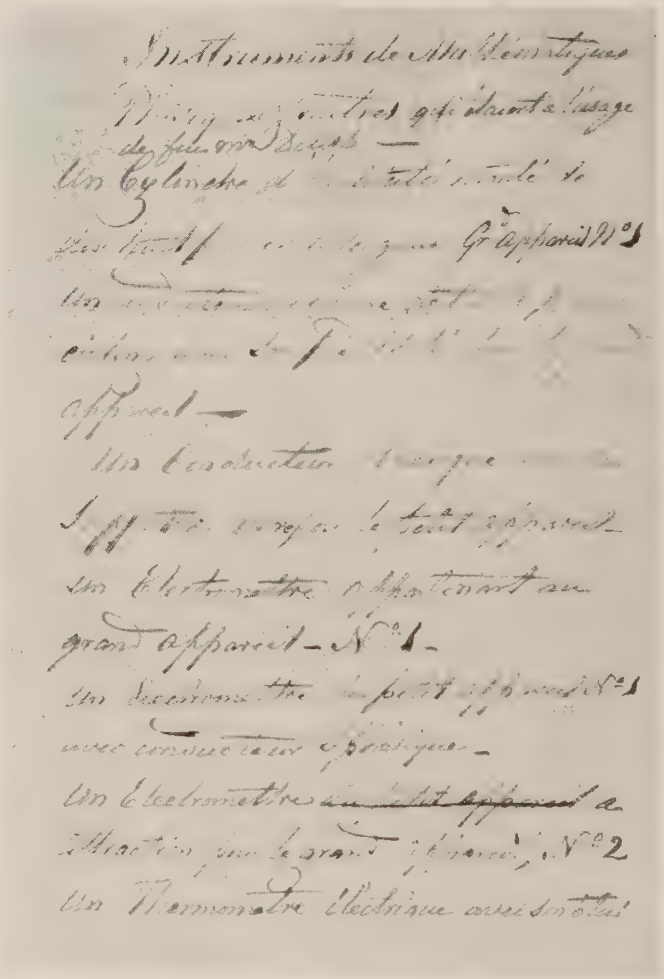
Optical microscope used for the teaching of the sciences at the Seminary of Québec. Musée de l'Amérique française, Séminaire de Québec Collection, Photograph by Kedl (1993, 12914.1-7).

The existence of a genuine physics laboratory in the home of the notary Jean Delisle (1724-1814)



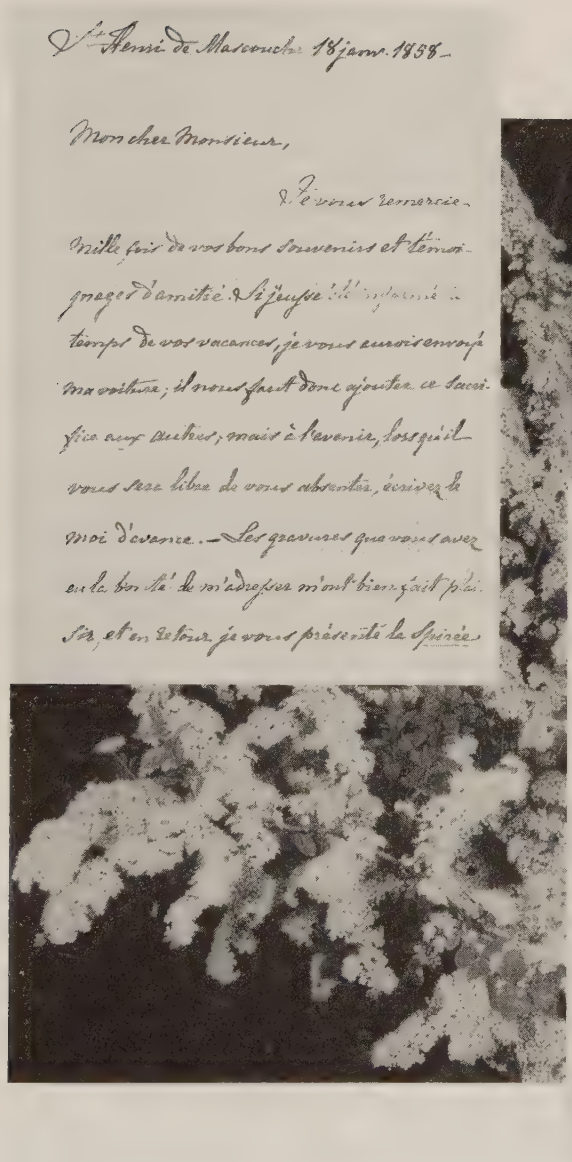
Drawing taken from the book by Jean Delisle entitled *Hydrostatique* 1798. Bibliothèque municipale de Montréal, Salle Gagnon.

was noted in 1814.[48] As for Joseph Papineau (1752-1841), he was not only enthralled by mathematics, he also devoted his leisure time to the observation of the heavenly bodies by means of a telescope.[49] Certain objects attract our interest in the estate of Pierre-Louis Deschenaux (1759-1802) : two globes, a microscope, a compass, a case of drawing instruments, a pocket spyglass.[50] The study of the notary Auguste Rocher contained an electrical cylinder and its tackle, a compass, a batch of maps, gazettes, etc.[51]



Excerpt from the inventory of the estate of Jean Delisle. National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Louis Guy Records, March 19, 1814 (CN-6010194\5560).

Jean Delisle's knowledge of mathematics and physics would have amazed his contemporaries. His manuscript *Hydrostatique*[52] contains calculations, problems with their solutions, etc. As such, according to the experts, his methodology reveals a mind open to the progress being made by science in Europe in the XVIII[th] and XIX[th] centuries.



Spiraea japonica (bumalda), Botanical Garden of Montréal, (0400-SPI-094).

His son[53] inherited his father's interest for the sciences and devoted many years of his life to botany. His unpublished manuscripts were extremely helpful, a few years later, to Rev. Léon Provencher who wrote *La Flore Canadienne*. Delisle corresponded with other lovers of botany of the period, especially Rev. Louis Gagné of Saint-Henri de Mascouche.

Letter from Rev. Louis Gagné, addressed to Augustin-Stanislas Delisle (1802-1865) on January 18, 1858. Université de Montréal, Archives Division, Jules-Brunel Fonds (P149/E1,5).

The notary Saint-Cyr[54] also dedicated himself to the study of botany and the natural sciences. He is an outstanding example of the passion for knowledge characteristic of so many notaries of that time. His publications display his preoccupation with putting science within reach of the public at large. He directed the Museum of Public Instruction[56] and became its conservator from 1886 to 1898, publishing in *Documents de la Session* various catalogues of the plants and insects of the Province of Québec which showed a knowledge of the subject quite remarkable for that time.[55]

Cicindèle à six points, family Carabidae, genus Cicindella, species Sexguttata. Insectarium de Montréal (1731).

Excerpt from the "Catalogue d'insectes, de mollusques, de crustacés et de fossiles de la collection de l'Instruction publique" [Catalogue of the Insects, Mollusks, Crustaceans, and Fossils of the *Instruction publique* Collection], compiled by Napoléon Saint-Cyr (1827-1899), *Documents de la Session* 1888.

ORDRE DES COLEOPTERES (Coleoptera)

CICENDELIDAE.

Cicendela, Linné.
longilabris, Say.
sexguttata, Fabricius.
purpurea, Olivier.
duodecimguttata, de Jean.
repanda, de Jean.
hirticollis, Say.
limbalis, Klug.
generosa, de Jean.
vulgaris, Say.
punctulata, Fabricius.

CARABIDAE

Omophron, Latreille.
americanus, de Jean.
Elaphrus, Fabricius.
ruscarius, Say.
politus, Leconte.
cicatricosus, Leconte.
Loricera, Latreille.
neoscotica, Leconte.
Nebria, Latreille.
pallipes, Say.
castanipes, Kirby.
Notiophilus, Dumériil.
confusus, Leconte.
Calosoma, Weber.
calidum, Fabricius.
frigidum, Kirby.
scrutator, Fabricius.
Carabus, Linné.
serratus, Say.
lapilayi, Laporte.

No 66.

REPONSE

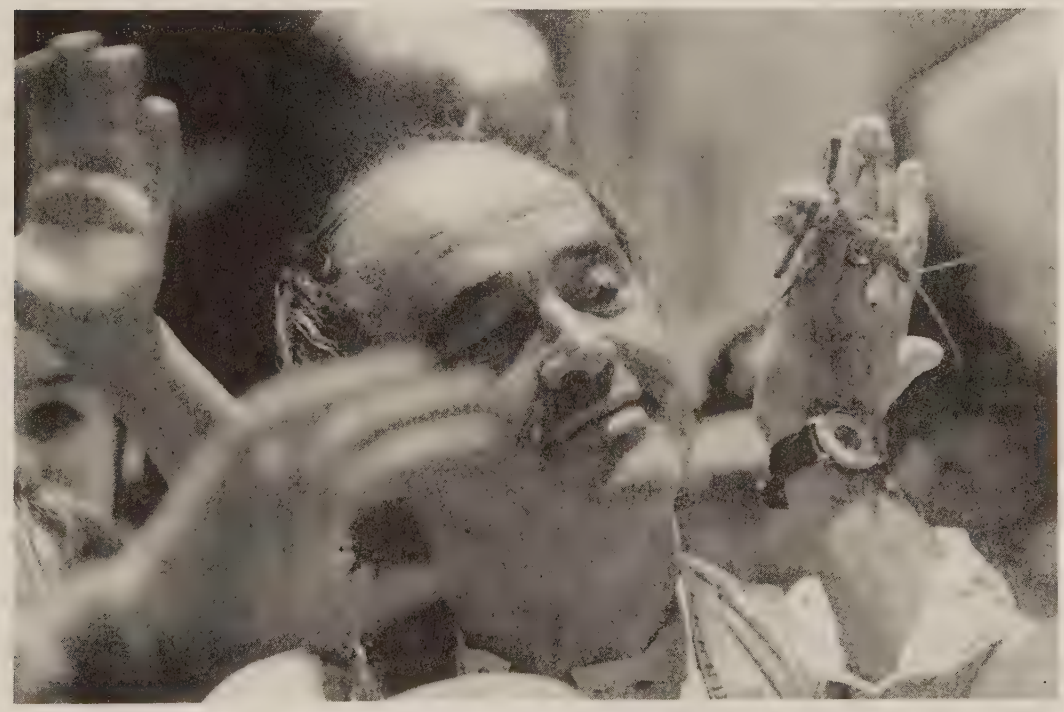
A une adresse de l'Assemblée Législative, en date du 11 juin 1888, priant Son Honneur le Lieutenant-Gouverneur de bien vouloir faire mettre devant cette chambre :

Une copie du rapport du Conservateur du Musée de l'Instruction Publique pour l'année expirée le 31 décembre 1887 et aussi copie de ses catalogues d'insectes, de mollusques, de crustacés et de fossiles de la Province de Québec, le tout faisant partie du dit musée :

(Signe) CHS A. ERN. GAGNON,
Secrétaire.

Bureau du Secrétaire,
Québec, 18 juin 1888.

Whether they pertain to mathematics, botany, meteorology, or geography, such a variety of scientific objects are often found in the homes of notaries. Though they sometimes serve an ornamental purpose in the notary's study, they first and foremost reveal the curiosity of an elite enlightened by the progress of the sciences and emerging technologies and its thirst for new knowledge. This type of interest endures to this day if one considers the insectarium, founded in 1990, based upon the work of the notary Georges Brossard.



Georges Brossard.
Photograph by Jacques Nadeau.

In 1990, the notary Brossard[57] founded the Montréal Insectarium by donating his personal collection of more than 200,000 insect specimens. He is the son of Georges-Henri Brossard, founder and mayor of the city named Brossard after its founder.

Musical Instruments

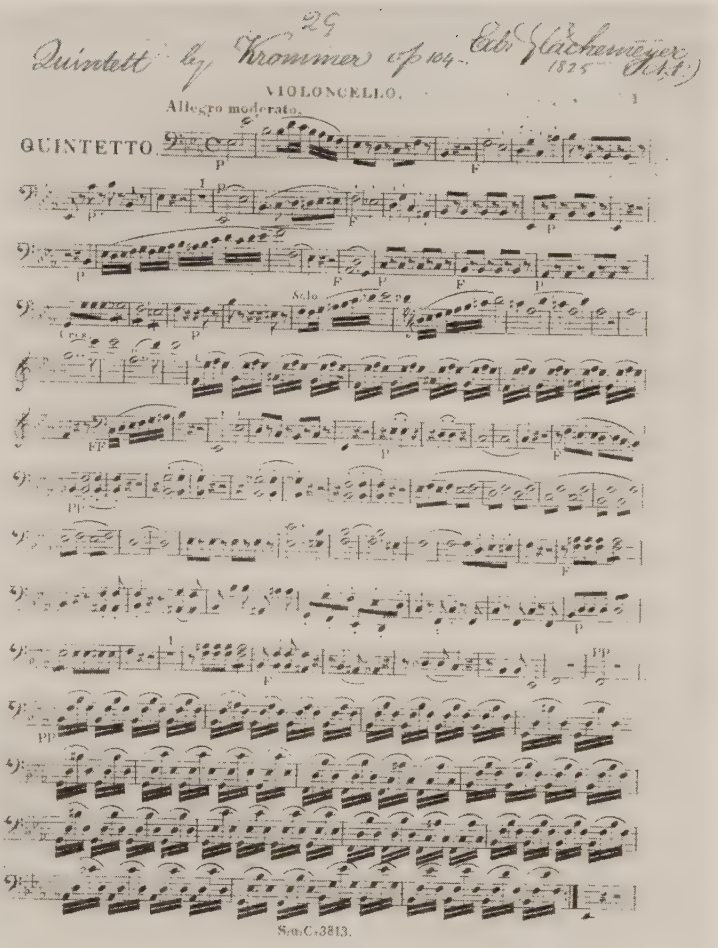
Musical development in Canada did not follow a continuous upward trajectory. The British Conquest impeded its progression by provoking the return to the mother country of New France's cultural elite which took with it all of its belongings, including musical instruments.[58] However, the religious congregations, whose members had received some musical education, remained in the colony and would contribute to its progress in spite of the change of regime.

Louis-Édouard Glackemeyer (1793-1881). National Archives of Québec in Québec, Famille Livernois Fonds, Photograph by Livernois (P560, S2, P300370-432).

During those difficult times, musical culture originated especially in the home. It was from his musician father, Friedrich Heinrich Glackemeyer, that the notary Louis-Édouard Glackemeyer learned to play several instruments and developed a keen interest in disseminating this art form in Canada.[59]

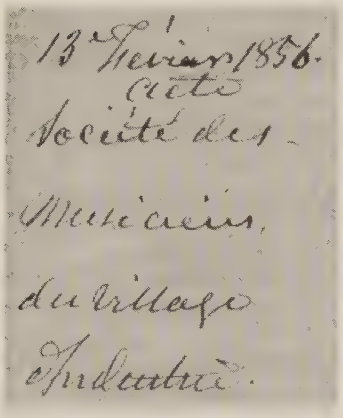
The senior Glackemeyer[60] was one of several musicians who had come from Europe to settle in Canada at the end of the XVIIIth century. A higly talented professional musician, he would influence the entire musical life of the country, founding the first Harmonic Society in the city of Québec. From 1784 to 1825, he ran a retail establishment in his home, selling musical instruments imported from England.

His son, the notary,[61] was a flutist who played in Canada's first Quartet under the direction of Judge Jonathan Sewell. He was, for many years, vice-president of the *Société Harmonique* of Québec, founded by his father in 1819. In 1857, he established the Septette Club with other notaries : Archibald Campbell and Joseph-Octave-Marc Chavigny de Lachevrotière. Thanks to these new musical ensembles, which gave public concerts, classical music became, little by little, available to a larger audience.



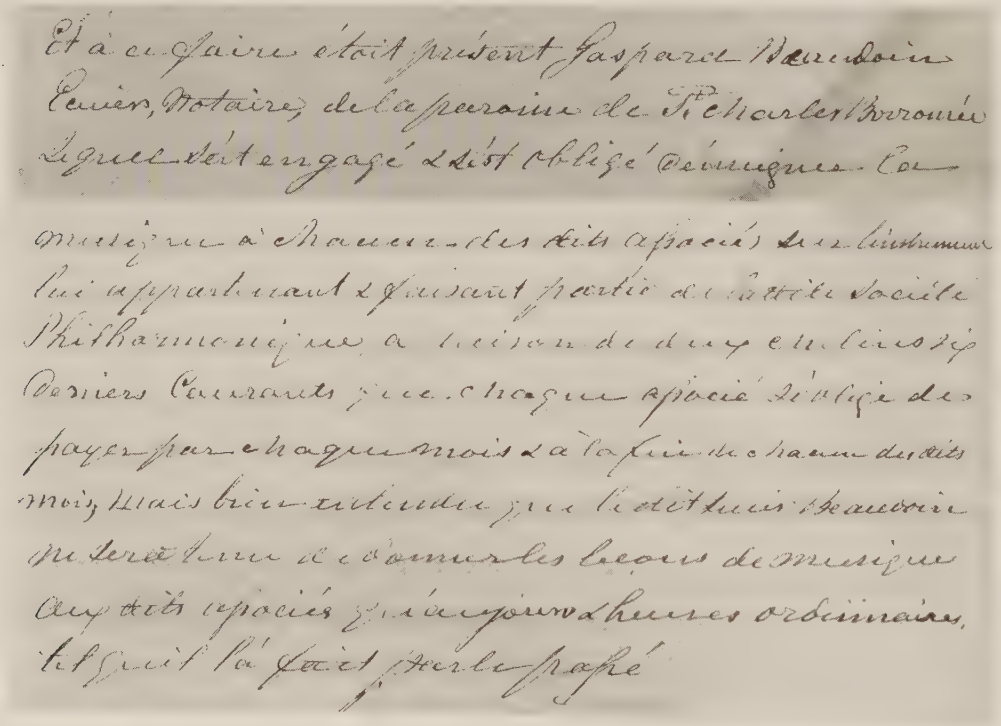
Brought up in such a setting, it is no wonder that his son Louis-Édouard[62] became enamoured of music. Despite having a very active professional career as a notary, he devoted a great deal of energy to musical pursuits. A particularly gifted flutist, he played this instrument for more than forty years for his own enjoyment at home as well as in concerts given in the city of Québec.

Score of a Quintet, *opus* 104 by Franz Kommer (1759-1831), arranged by Édouard Glackemeyer.
Musée de l'Amérique française, Séminaire de Québec Collection, Photograph by Pierre Soulard (665.3).

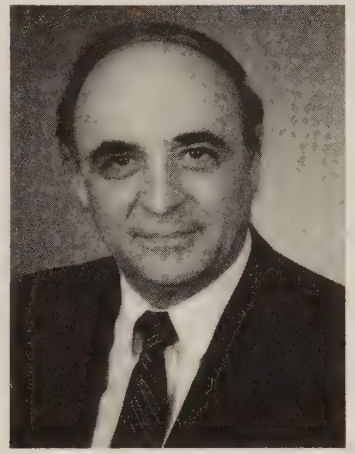

13e Janvier 1856.
Acte
Société des
Musiciens,
du Village
d'Industrie.

An 1856 contract for the teaching of music by Gaspard Beaudoin, esquire and notary, to a group of associates of the *Société des musiciens du Village d'Industrie* [Joliette].
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Jean-Olivier Leblanc Records, February 13, 1856 (CN-6050025\234).

Musical instruments were not, of course, to be found in abundance except in the homes of a few musicians. The growth of classical colleges from the middle of the XIX[th] century on contributed, however, to the organization of musical education and to the proliferation of instruments in the country. Religious communities imported instruments from England and placed them at the disposal of their students, most of whom belonged to professional families. As early as 1847, the Ursulines of Québec were giving organ lessons as well as teaching their students to play the harp, the piano, the guitar, etc.[63] Other teaching establishments followed suit and acquired, little by little, their own musical ensembles.[64]

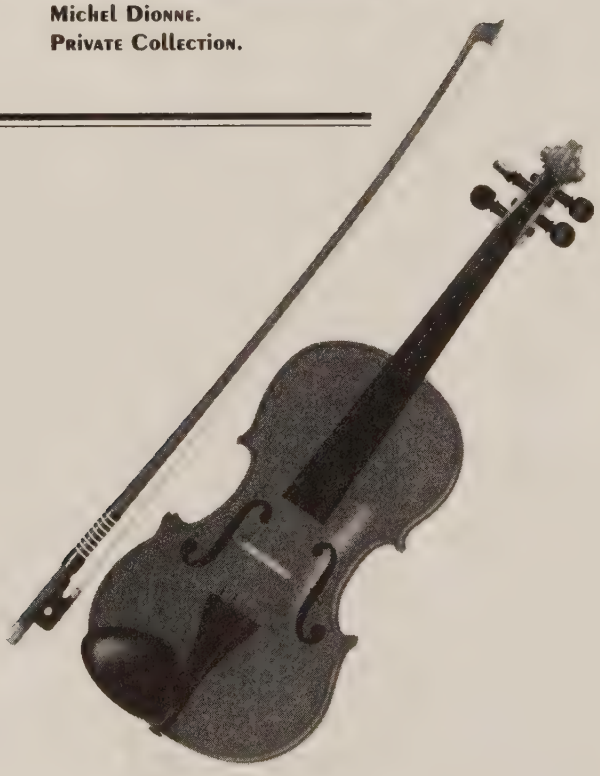

Et a ce faire était présent Gaspard Beaudoin
Ecuier, Notaire de la paroisse de St Charles Borromée
Lequel s'est engagé et s'est obligé d'enseigner et
montrer à chanter les dits associés sur l'instrument
lui appartenant et faisant partie de la dite Société
Philharmonique à raison de deux entières
Leçons par chacun associé s'obligé des
payer par chaque mois et à la fin de chacun des dits
mois, mais bien entendu que le dit Gaspard Beaudoin
ne sera tenu de donner les leçons de musique
aux dits associés qu'aux jours et heures ordinaires,
et qu'il a fait et fermé signé

To the efforts expended by religious communities can be added the profusion of activities organized by musical groups composed of amateurs and professionals born in the country. Paralleling the concerts given by foreign musicians, societies composed of professionals and amateurs were created and became actively engaged in symphonic concerts, operas, and chorales.



Michel Dionne.
Private Collection.

Me Dionne fut administrateur-fondateur du Festival international de Lanaudière de 1979 à 1982. Toujours actif dans la vie culturelle de sa région, il siège depuis 1986 au Conseil d'administration du Musée d'art de Joliette.



The fact remains, nonetheless, that throughout the XIXth century, the playing of a musical instrument presupposed not only that a person had some leisure time, but also a certain level of training in order to be able to sight-read a musical score. Although, as time went on, the ability to play an instrument became more widespread, musical culture remained the prerogative of an elite to which the notaries belonged. The ownership of musical instruments often served to satisfy the urge to be ostentatious, quite characteristic of a social group like that of the notaries, preoccupied with being in the forefront in all sectors of human activity. Within this elite could also be found many lovers of music who continued to promote its development even in the XXth century.

Quite apart from his practice of law, Léonidas Bachand[66] engaged in a great many musical and theatrical activities in the Sherbrooke region : operettas in which he sang or conducted the orchestra, in addition to being a soloist and choir director in local chorales, including that of the Sherbrooke cathedral.

Léonidas Bachand (1915-1975) standing in the center of the orchestra pit.
***Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke* Collection (IP22PN2.3f/4).**

The notary Jules Lavigne[67] (1917-1970), who came from a family of musicians, directed the *Harmonie* of La Sarre, a brass band founded in 1923. Jules was the son of Arthur Lavigne, a well-known musician and founder of the Haydn Septuor and the Québec Symphony at the end of the XIXth century.

In the center, Jules Lavigne. André Lavigne Collection.

At the far left, Georges Sylvestre. *Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke* Collection (IP246PN2.3A/2).

Georges Sylvestre[68] (1923-1976) was a flutist with the symphony orchestra of Sherbrooke. He served as president of the Chamber of Notaries of Québec from 1951 to 1954.

Charles-A. Roberge.
Private Collection.

Charles Roberge of Trois-Rivières exhibited an interest in music from an early age. He is a devotee of Mozart, and a collector of records and books on opera, which he has commented upon for Radio Canada and written about on a regular basis in *Le Nouvelliste*. He has lectured on the role of the notary in opera and was the promoter of the exhibit entitled *Le notaire et la vie quotidienne* [The Notary and Daily Life] held in Montréal and Québec in 1986. He is legal counsel to the *Fédération des Caisses populaires* Desjardins [Federation of Desjardins Credit Unions] for the Center of Québec in Trois-Rivières.

The Public Lives of Notaries

- IV -

Social Life

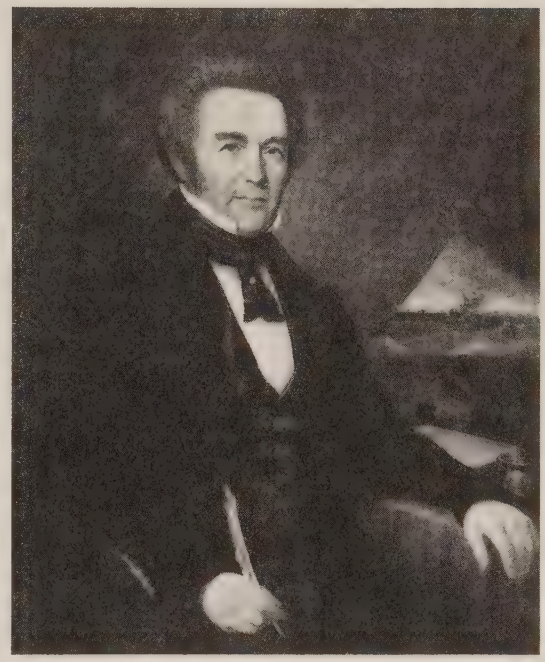
Joseph Légaré, *Le Désespoir d'une indienne* [The Despair of an Indian Maiden]. Oil on canvas, 1848, Patrick Altman Photograph, Québec Museum (65.90).

Archibald Campbell[69] was the patron of many writers and artists in Québec City, among them the painter Antoine-Sébastien Falardeau, whose stay in Italy he underwrote, and the historian François-Xavier Garneau. He was also a collector and a founding member, in 1831, of the *Société littéraire et historique de Québec*. In the middle of the XIX[th] century, his home was the meeting place of writers and artists.

Excerpt from the *Courrier du Canada*, July 18, 1862, «monsieur Campbell avait du goût pour les beaux-arts et savait les protéger dans les autres. Plus d'un de nos jeunes compatriotes lui doivent leur avenir, et nulle nécessité ne s'est jamais fait connaître à lui sans en recevoir un soulagement. Il devinait pour ainsi dire les talents prédestinés, se tenait comme à l'affût des occasions de leur être utile ou de les lancer dans la carrière ; et nous pourrions citer, à ce sujet, plusieurs traits qui font le plus grand honneur à sa mémoire. Nous en avons recueilli de la bouche même d'étrangers à notre pays qui publiaient hautement ses nobles qualités».[70]

The evaluation of books, musical instruments, and scientific apparatus revealed to us the cultural tastes and the focus of the interests of notaries throughout the decades. Passionate about the life of the mind, they sought out the company of writers and artists whose celebrity they often fostered.

In the middle of the XIXth century, the *salon* of the notary Archibald Campbell became the meeting place of the outstanding writers, and especially artists, in the city of Québec. Among those he sheltered, notably in his own offices, was Québec's first national historian, François-Xavier Garneau, whose friend and protector he became.[71]



Archibald Campbell (1790-1862). Théophile Hamel. Oil on canvas, 1847, Patrick Altman Photograph, Musée du Québec (69.358).

At a time when local production was rather meager, the emancipation of a typically Canadian culture was dependent upon private initiatives and the support of a small core of amateurs composed of an elite concerned with the development of the arts and an intellectual life in French Canada.

So it was that when Archibald Campbell acquired—even before their completion—two paintings : the *Betrothal* and the *Despair of an Indian Maiden*, by the local artist Joseph Légaré, he viewed these acquisitions as future monuments to the first efforts of the Canadian School.[72] Campbell encouraged more than one young artist and financed the stay in Italy of the painter Antoine-Sébastien Falardeau to further his artistic studies.[73]

Ludmilla Chiriaeff.

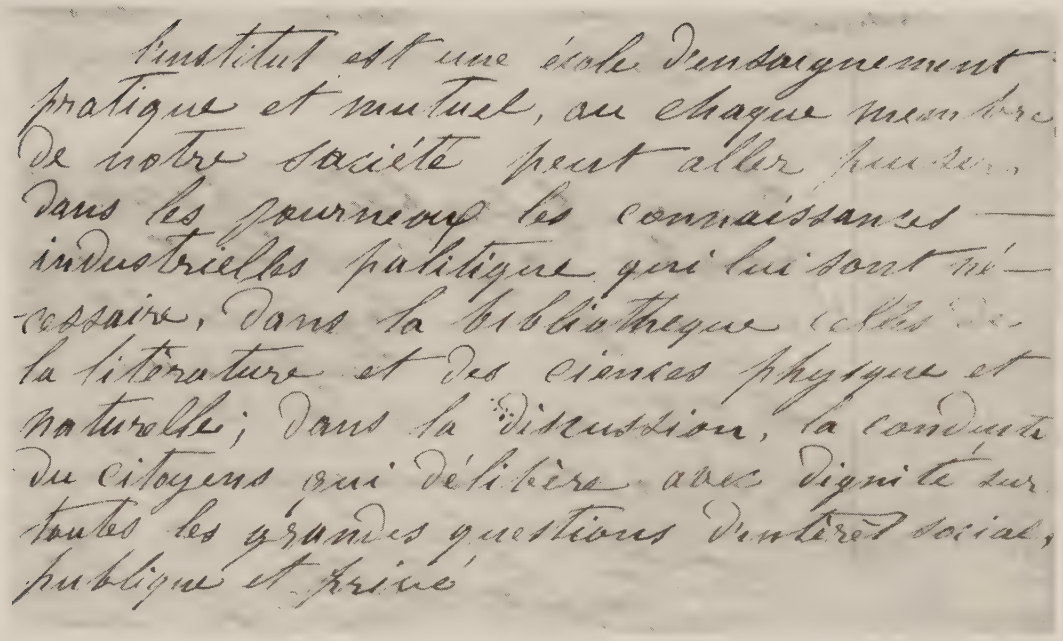
Guy Blanchard. Danielle Blanchard Collection.

Guy Blanchard[76] (1924-1967) was an active participant in the foundation of the *Grands Ballets Canadiens* (1957) by the dancer Ludmilla Chiriaeff (1924-1996). He was its first vice-president and a member of its Administrative Council until 1967.

Because, as a group, the members of the profession constituted a cultural milieu, it is not surprising that they maintained close contact with—sometimes even having relatives—among the greatest painters of the period. It was at his grandfather Jean Baillargé's studio that the famous *Patriote*, Jean-Joseph Girouard,[74] learned the rudiments of painting. He has left us, among other works, an incalculably precious account regarding the principal actors of the Insurrections of 1837-1838. The Faribault family of notaries is related, for its part, to Théophile Hamel, the official government painter in the middle of the XIXth century; he had married Marthe Faribault, daughter of Georges-Barthélemi Faribault, a lawyer and bibliographer, and granddaughter of Barthélemi Faribault, a notary from Berthier.[75]

One can also gain an insight into the social life of notaries by studying their commitment at the level of the various cultural associations which proliferated, especially in the XIXth century. The creation of cultural societies is one of the outstanding manifestations of the intellectual life of that period. It is these associations which established the first libraries and the first reading rooms in Lower Canada, supported literature, and encouraged the initiatives of local artists.

By far the most important of these creations were the *Instituts canadiens* which became the centers of European liberal ideas in Canada. After the foundation of the Montréal *Institut* in 1844 and that of Québec in 1848, the movement extended its scope by reaching some thirty towns which followed suit.[77] Each one of them had its own *Institut*. Many were the notaries who joined this

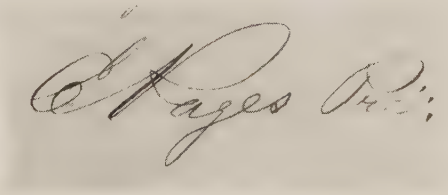


L'institut est une école d'enseignement pratique et mutuel, où chaque membre de notre société peut aller puiser, dans les fournitures les connaissances industrielles politiques qui lui sont nécessaire, dans la Bibliothèque celles de la littérature et des sciences physique et naturelle; dans la discussion, la conduite du citoyens qui délibère avec dignité sur toutes les grandes questions d'intérêt social, public et privé

Excerpt from the *Registre des procès-verbaux* [minutes] *de l'Institut canadien du Village de Longueuil*, February 24, 1859.
Yvan Lamonde Collection.

first type of cultural association in French Canada. The notary Eustache Pages[78] in Longueuil would be one of its principal promoters, as was Donald George Morison,[79] a notary in Saint-Hyacinthe. These first cultural associations brought together the intellectuals of that era, desirous of freely discussing a thousand and one subjects in all fields : political, economic, social, philosophical, etc.[82]

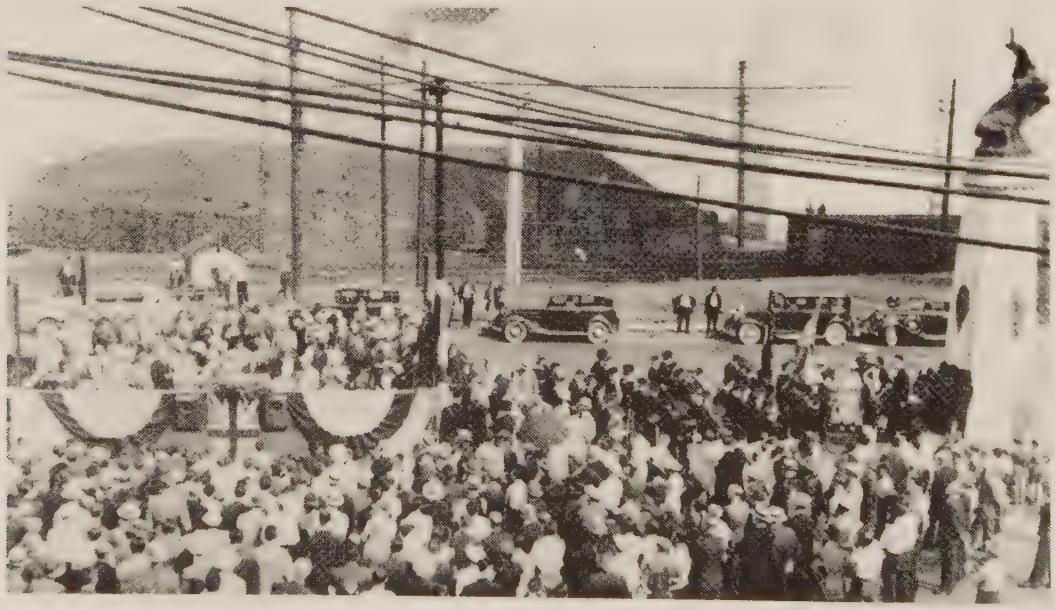
In this report, the notary Eustache Pages nicely summarized the intellecual aspirations of the disciples of the *Instituts canadiens* which were seen as "schools" for furthering knowledge in all fields and which encouraged their members to "deliberate with dignity all the important questions of social interest, public and private." The Longueuil *Institut canadien*[80] was founded in 1857 with twenty-nine charter members. These Institutes having been condemned in 1858 by Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montréal, the Longueuil group was dissolved in 1860.



Eustache Pages's signature, excerpt from the *Registre des procès-verbaux* [minutes] *de l'Institut canadien du Village de Longueuil*, February 24, 1859.
Yvan Lamonde Collection.

Louis Archambault.
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Québec
Chamber of Notaries Fonds (P183/3).

Louis Archambault[81] (1814-1890) was the first president of the *Chambre unique* of the notaries, created in 1870 at the *Institut canadien* of Montréal.



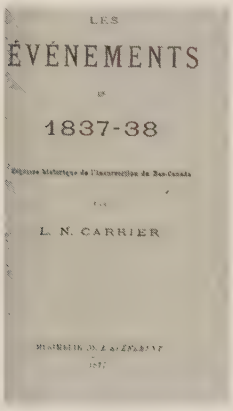
Notaries gathered on August 17, 1937 to pay homage to the *Patriotes* of 1837.

The ascendancy of Montréal's *Institut canadien*, undoubtedly the most important of them all, became significant at all levels of political, social, and religious life in French Canada. It advocated, among other issues, the separation of Church and State, annexation to the United States, compulsory education, etc. It would finally be condemned by the Church in 1858 and its members threatened with excommunication by Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montréal. Following this, the *Instituts canadiens*, found in all four corners of French Canada, would become merely places to meet and communicate for all levels of the population.

During these same years, three other associations, with quite similar goals, would see the light of day : the *Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste*, the *Société Aide-toi, le ciel t'aidera* [Heaven helps those who help themselves] and the *Fils de la liberté* [Sons of Liberty]. All three had a liberal bent and the destiny of the nation was a cause which they held dear. Once again, notaries would be the ones to guide their evolution. However, the only one of the three to survive without mishap the revolutionary turmoil [of 1837-1838], was the *Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste*.[84] Notaries also belonged, in large numbers—following in this the example of the other professions,—to clubs or volunteer associa-

Victor Morin[83] (1865-1960), a bibliophile, amateur historian, and writer, was the president of the *Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste* of Montréal from 1916 to 1924. He initiated the project of a monument in memory of the *Patriotes* who were executed in 1838-1839. He was also president of the *Société historique* of Montréal from 1916 to 1928, of both the Chamber of Notaries of Québec, from 1930 to 1933, and the *Société d'archéologie et de numismatique* of Montréal from 1927 to 1957.

Victor Morin.
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Chamber of Notaries of Québec Fonds (P183/41).

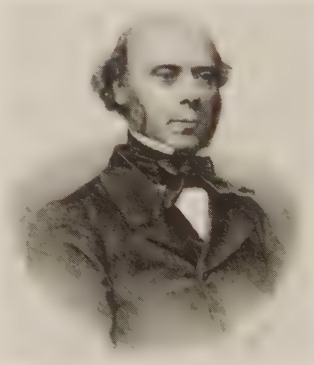

LES
ÉVÉNEMENTS
DE
1837-38
L. N. CARRIER

Essay by Louis-Napoléon Carrier[85] (1837-1912), *Les événements de 1837-1838. Esquisse historique de l'insurrection du Bas-Canada* [*The Events of 1837-38. A Historical Outline of the Insurrection of Lower Canada*], Québec, Imprimerie de l'Événement, 1877; Beauceville, la Compagnie de publication de l'Éclaireur, 1914. In this work, the notary Carrier gives the reader a personal interpretation of this tumultuous period in the history of Québec. Bibliothèque municipale de Montréal, Salle Gagnon.

tions such as the *Société royale et patriotique* of Lower Canada and to various societies devoted to history and genealogy to which they often contributed in important ways. One fact remains clear : if a historical society exists somewhere, if there are archives to turn to good account, a museum to be established, there can always be found a notary ready to lend support.

Finally, the notaries who were themselves writers, or who inspired the latter, and who were collectors of names and facts, as well as all sorts of information, can themselves be found as the creators of works, sometimes historical, sometimes scientific in nature, which expressed a truly original culture and was their contribution to the literary production of the time.

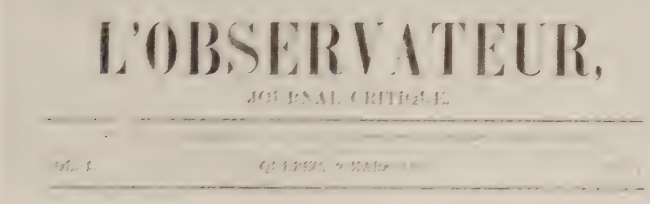
Original edition of the *Histoire du Canada depuis sa découverte jusqu'à nos jours* [*The History of Canada From Its Discovery To the Present Day*] by François-Xavier Garneau, Imprimerie de N. Aubin, Québec, 1845-1852. Bibliothèque municipale de Montréal, Salle Gagnon.



François-Xavier Garneau (1809-1866). Anonymous, Oval-Shaped Lithography, 1866, National Archives of Canada.

Although he was accepted as a notary on 23 June 1830, Garneau[86] dedicated his life to the writing of his grandly conceived overview of the history of Canada which became the most important work of XIXth century French Canada.

As friends of all things literary, they wrote in all the genres, first as journalists, for the newspaper was the principal form of expression in the XIX^th century. Notaries would be the founders of newspapers or its principal reporters. Some of them wrote in literary genres not widely practiced in XIX^th century French Canada : the novel, the essay, and poetry. Others pursued an interest in history or numismatics. All of these works are important, not only from a literary point of view, but also because they turn out to be precious chronicles of the political and social events of an epoch.


L'OBSERVATEUR,

JOURNAL CRITIQUE

L'Observateur, Québec, 1858-1860, a Papineauist newspaper. Bibliotheque nationale du Québec, Aegidius Fauteux.

Drawn to journalism, like many professionals of the period, the notary, Louis-Michel Darveau[57] founded *L'Observateur* [*The Observer*], a journal of humor, in 1858. The newspaper lasted until 1860 after which he started *La Réforme* which became *La Tribune* in 1863. He is also the author of *Nos hommes de lettres* [*Our Men of Letters*] (1873) containing the biographies of fourteen writers he had known during his career as a journalist. This was no doubt the first attempt at a literary history of French Canada.

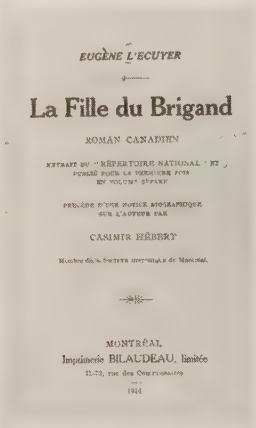
Joseph-Israël Tarte[58] is considered to be one of the greatest journalists of French Canada. He was, for many years, the editor of *Le Canadien*, founded in 1809 by Pierre Bédard to counteract the anti-French-Canadian influence of the *Quebec Mercury*. He collaborated on many newspapers of the day : *Les Laurentides*, *Le Cultivateur* and *La Patrie* which he eventually owned. Journalism led him to a political career. In the Laurier government he was Minister of Public Works (1896).

Joseph-Israël Tarte (1848-1907). *La Presse*.

JOSEPH-PATRICE TRULLIER DIT LACOMBE (1807-1863).
ANONYMOUS, CHARCOAL, CHÂTEAU RAMEZAY MUSEUM.

The notary Lacombe[89] is considered to be the "first novelist of the soil" in Québec. This literary genre was much appreciated by the public in the second half of the XIX[th] century. *La terre paternelle* [*The Family Farm*] first appeared in the *Album littéraire et musical* of *La Revue Canadienne* (February 1846, pp. 14-25).

The notary L'Écuyer[90] divided his time between writing and his profession. He wrote articles for a dozen newspapers and periodicals of his day. His novel, *La fille du brigand,* places him among the pioneers of the *Québécois* novel. Seven editions were published between 1844 and 1914, proof of its favorable reception by the public.


EUGÈNE L'ECUYER

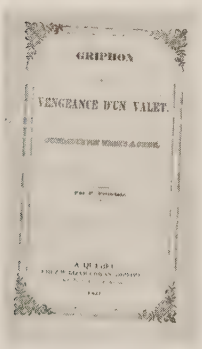
La Fille du Brigand

ROMAN CANADIEN

CASIMIR HÉBERT

MONTRÉAL
Imprimerie BILAUDEAU, limitée

COVER PAGE OF *LA FILLE DU BRIGAND* [THE BRIGAND'S DAUGHTER] BY EUGÈNE L'ÉCUYER (1822-1898). BIBLIOTHÈQUE MUNICIPALE DE MONTRÉAL, SALLE GAGNON.


GRIPHON

VENGEANCE D'UN VALET.

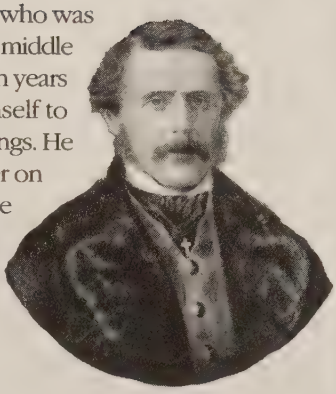
COVER PAGE OF THE COMEDY ENTITLED *GRIPHON OU LA VENGEANCE D'UN VALET,* 1837 [*GRIPHON OR THE VALET'S REVENGE*] BY PIERRE PETITCLAIR (1813-1860). BIBLIOTHÈQUE MUNICIPALE DE MONTRÉAL, SALLE GAGNON.

Félix-Gabriel Marchand[91] took a lifelong interest in literature despite a very active public life. He became a journalist, then wrote plays and poetry. His collected works were published in *Mélanges poétiques et littéraires*, Montréal, C.-O. Beauchemin & Fils, 1899.

***UN BONHEUR EN ATTIRE UN AUTRE* [*ONE HAPPINESS ATTRACTS ANOTHER*]. ENGRAVING PUBLISHED IN *MÉLANGES POÉTIQUES ET LITTÉRAIRES*, BEAUCHEMIN 1899, PP. 1-34, ANNOUNCING THIS ONE-ACT COMEDY BY F.-A. MARCHAND, NOTARY AND PRIME MINISTER OF QUÉBEC AT THE END OF THE XIX[TH] CENTURY. BIBLIOTHÈQUE MUNICIPALE DE MONTRÉAL, SALLE GAGNON.**

Pierre PetitClair[92] gave up the career of notary, for which he was destined, to become a writer. *Griphon* was his first comedy. He also wrote another entitled *Donation* as well as poetry.

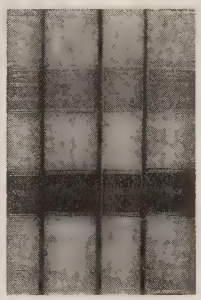
Stanley Clark Bagg[93] (1820-1873), who was very much in the public eye in the middle of the XIX[th] century, spent fourteen years as a notary before devoting himself to managing his huge property holdings. He was the second largest landowner on the Island of Montréal, after the Sulpicians. His abiding interest in numismatics and archeology led to his founding the *Société de numismatique de Montréal* in 1862 which gave rise to a museum devoted to archeology and numismatics housed in the Château Ramezay.



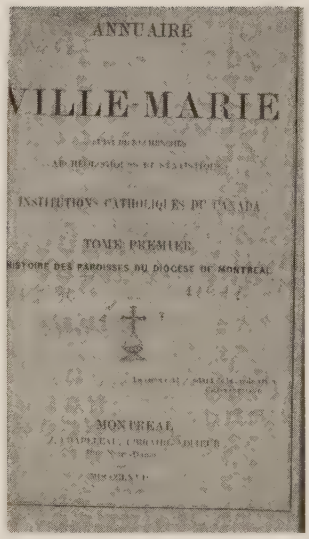
Stanley Clark Bagg (1820-1873). Anonymus, oil on canvas, Château Ramezay Museum.

Joseph-Edmond Roy. National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Chamber of notaries of Québec Fonds (P183/28).

Joseph-Edmond Roy[94] (1858-1913) was the first director of manuscripts at the National Archives of Canada, a post which he occupied from 1908 to 1913. He was also president of the Chamber of Notaries of Québec from 1909-1912 and author of the monumental work on the profession entitled *Histoire du notariat depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours* in 4 volumes published between 1899-1902. He founded the *Revue du notariat*, a periodical which he directed from 1898 to 1913. Since 1956, Roger Comtois has occupied this position.

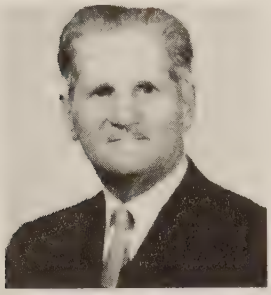


***Histoire du notariat depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours*, 4 volumes, Lévis, 1899-1902.**



***L'Annuaire de Ville-Marie suivi de recherches archéologiques et statistiques sur les institutions catholiques du Canada - Histoire des paroisses du diocèse de Montréal*, Montréal, Librairie-Editeur Z. Chapeleau, 1867, 3 tomes, de Louis-Adolphe Huguet-Latour (1821-1904). Bibliothèque municipale de Montréal, salle Gagnon.**

First librarian of Montréal's *Société historique*, Louis-Adolphe Huguet-Latour[95] was the author of the colossal history of the parishes of the Montréal diocese which has remained of enormous value for scholars and genealogists.



Rodolphe Fournier. Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec.

Rodolphe Fournier[96] (1907-1989) orchestrated the association of local historical societies into a federation to enhance the work of each and promote historical research. Since 1992, the Chamber of Notaries awards a prize in his name to a scholar having emphasized the value of notarial archives in his research.

Gérard Morisset in 1960. National Archives of Québec in Québec, série Office du film du Québec, Neuville Bazin photograph (E6,S7,P910-60-H).

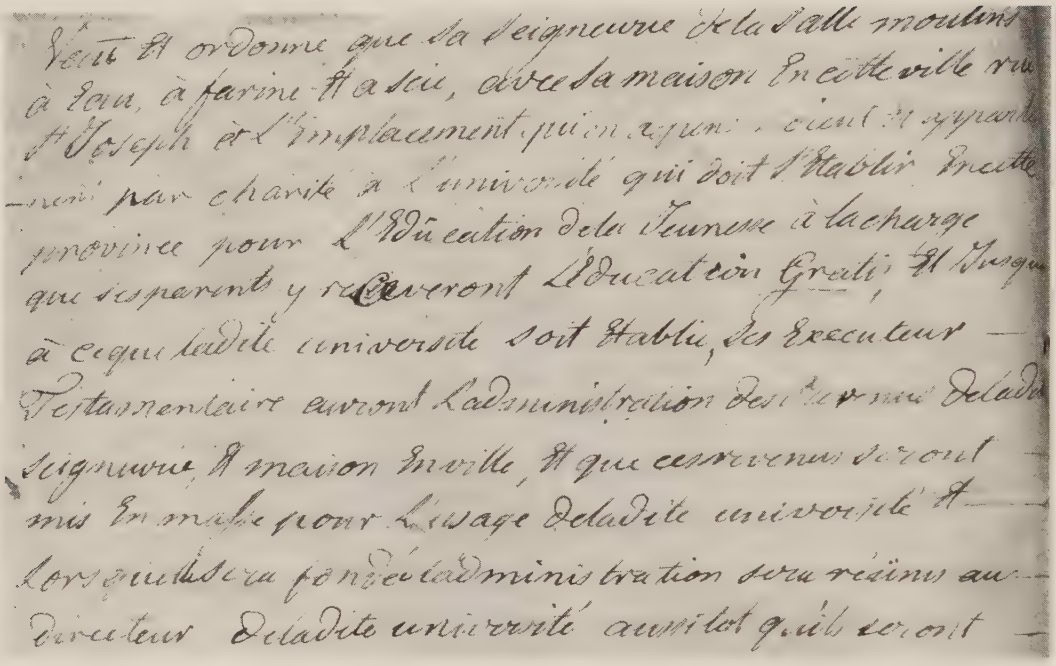
Gérard Morisset[97] (1898-1970) produced the *Inventaire des œuvres d'art* [*Inventory of Art Works*] of French Canada. He served as director of the Museum of Québec from 1953 to 1965.

Julien S. Mackay. Private Collection.

Born into a family with a tradition—going back to 1821—of entering the notarial profession, Julien S. Mackay became one himself in 1950, practicing in Verdun. He has been extremely active in the Chamber of Notaries, occupying various prominent positions. From 1968 to 1983, he taught in the University of Montréal's law school and since 1992 he is president of the *Société Archiv-Histo* whose goal is to make known the documentary value of notarial archives and constituting the data base known as *Parchemin* based upon official court registers. He was named to the Order of Canada in 1994.

- V -

Notaries and the Birth of the School System in French Canada



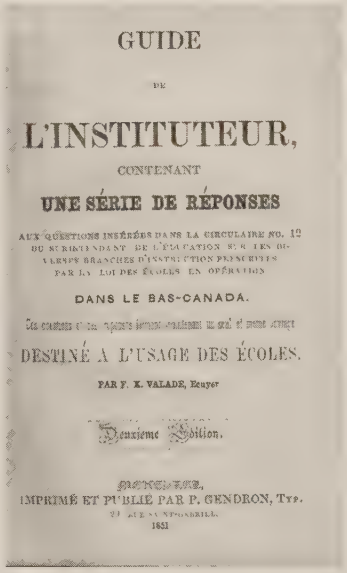
Veut et ordonne que la seigneurie de la Salle moulins
à eau, à farine et à scie, avec sa maison en cette ville rue
St Joseph et l'emplacement qui en depens soient et appartien
nent par charité à l'université qui doit s'établir en cette
province pour l'Éducation de la Jeunesse à la charge
que ses parents y receveront l'Éducation gratis et jusqu'
à ce que ladite université soit établie, ses exécuteur
testamentaire auront l'administration des revenus de ladite
seigneurie, et maison en ville, et que ces revenus seront
mis en masse pour l'usage de ladite université et
lorsqu'elle sera fondée l administration sera réunis au
directeur de ladite université aussitot qu'ils seront...

Excerpt from the will of Simon Sanguinet.
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Louis Chaboillez Records, March 14, 1790 (CR-601, S1).

The will of notary Simon Sanguinet[98] (1733-1790) left a bequest of eleven thousand pounds to create the University of Montréal. Thus, nearly a quarter of a century before James McGill, a French-Canadian notary bequeathed a portion of his fortune to create a university in the Province of Québec. Unfortunately, the will was contested by Sanguinet's heirs and, after a long and costly trial, the court ruled in favor of the heirs in 1792.

Protagonists of European liberal ideas, notaries reveal themselves not only through their readings or their social relationships, but also by their involvement in the development of education in French Canada.

Key figures in the parishes of the XIX[th] century, notaries contested the clergy's dominating influence, especially with regard to education.[99] They would always refuse to allow the Church to have sole responsibility for school administration and, as parish trustees [syndics], they would intervene in the management of parish [*fabrique*] schools created in 1824 and then in 1829 in the public schools which came under the aegis of the Parliament of Lower Canada and which excluded the clergy from their administration.



GUIDE

DE

L'INSTITUTEUR,

CONTENANT

UNE SÉRIE DE RÉPONSES

AUX QUESTIONS INSÉRÉES DANS LA CIRCULAIRE NO. 12 DU SURINTENDANT DE L'ÉDUCATION S'Y RENDANT LES DIVERSES BRANCHES D'INSTRUCTION PRESCRITES PAR LA LOI DES ÉCOLES EN OPÉRATION

DANS LE BAS-CANADA.

DESTINÉ A L'USAGE DES ÉCOLES.

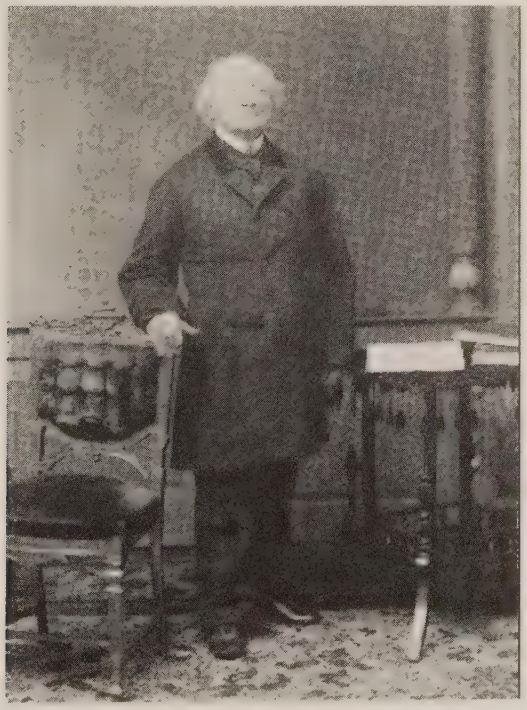
PAR F. X. VALADE, Ecuyer

Deuxième Edition.

IMPRIMÉ ET PUBLIÉ PAR P. GENDRON, Typ.

1851

***Guide de l'instituteur*, Montréal, 1851.**
Bibliothèque municipale de Montréal, salle Gagnon.



François-Xavier Valade[100] (1803-1893) became a notary in 1835 and coupled his professional duties as a notary with those of a teacher. His model school in Longueuil was housed in the parish building of Saint-Antoine de Padoue. In 1850, he published a *Guide de l'Instituteur* which is one of the rare pedagogical publications of that period. He went on to become a School Inspector for the counties of Hochelaga, Vaudreuil, Soulanges, and Jacques Cartier from 1853 to 1873.

François-Xavier Valade.
Simonne Brais Collection.

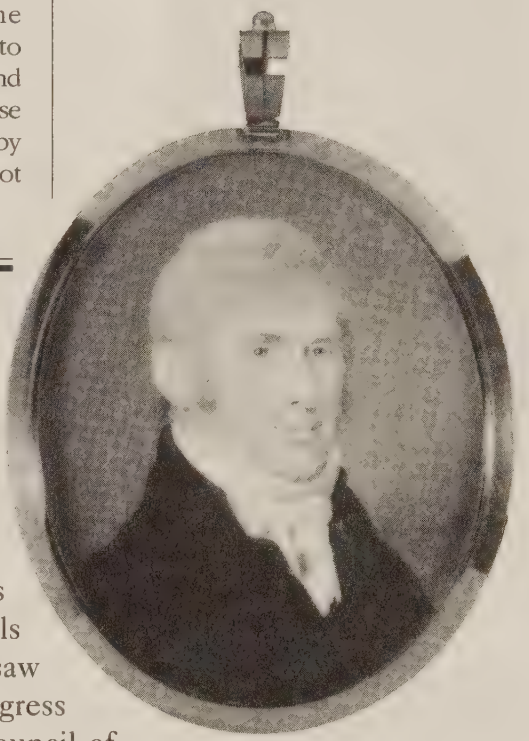
Jean-Joseph Girouard. Anonymus, National Archives of Canada. (C-133433).

Jean-Joseph Girouard[101] (1795-1855) and his wife Émilie Berthelot (1816-1896) devoted the last years of their lives to the construction of the Youville Hospice which they viewed as the achievement of their lifetimes. This charitable enterprise was dedicated to the education of young women and the care of the elderly. Grandson of the artist Baillargé, Girouard himself drew up the plan for the building and the chapel decor. To finance this humanitarian undertaking, he used the money he had received in 1863 as an indemnity for the losses he had sustained during the Rebellions of 1837-1838. The building remains in St. Benoit, Deux Montagnes County, where it still serves the needs of the elderly[102].

Marie-Émilie Berthelot. Jean-Joseph Girouard, oil on canvas, 1851, Archives du Centre de recherche Lionel-Groulx, Familles Girouard et Berthelot fonds (P4/J,1.6).

Hospice d'Youville at Saint-Benoît. Soeurs Grises de Montréal.

In 1808, Jean-Marie Mondelet[103] (1773-1843) defended a proposal that defined the qualifications required of those wanting to become notaries; it encouraged further study and shortened the period of apprenticeship for those who held college degrees. Although adopted by the Legislative Assembly, the statute was not ratified by the Legislative Council.



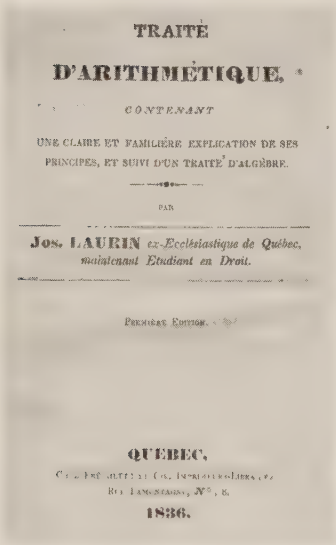
Jean-Marie Mondelet.
Miniature on Ivory,
Château Ramezay Museum.

As ardent defenders of universal education, the notaries sought to establish a system of public education, despite the protests of the clergy, and participated in the management of schools and, later, in the administration of school boards. They would also try, by all the means at their disposal, to impose their ideals on the educational system for they saw that instruction was the source of progress and liberty. As clerk of the parish council of Notre Dame in Montreal, the notary Jean-Guillaume Delisle intervened, along with the parish wardens, in the government of St. Raphael School by proposing a more liberal program of studies.[104] As lay administrators, the notaries Joseph-Narcisse Cardinal[105] and François-Georges Lepailleur drafted, in 1829, and again in 1832, many reports on the administration of the parish school of Saint-Joachim, and closely supervised the education of the children. Likewise, Barthélemy Joliette did not hesitate to replace the teaching of Latin with mathematics and English in the school whose construction he had paid for with his own funds.[106]

Joseph Laurin.
Antoine Plamondon, oil on canvas, 1841, Musée du Québec (64.50).

Joseph Laurin[107] (1811-1888) had been a professor at the College of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière after leaving the Québec Seminary. He began his career as a notary in 1839. His teaching experience had shown him the need for books. From 1836 to 1839, he published a treatise on arithmetic, one on teaching children, one on bookkeeping, and an elementary textbook on geography. In 1840, Laurin participated in setting up the Association of Notaries of the District of Québec. He was the force behind the adoption in 1847 of the first law organizing the profession into a corporation. This exhibit was set up to mark the anniversary of this event.

Until the State took over the responsibility for education, notaries were in the forefront of the movement to offer an elementary education to the population of Québec. Pierre-Louis Deschenaux joined with the curé Louis-M.-F. Brassard to create a school in Nicolet destined to become the Seminary of Nicolet.


TRAITÉ

D'ARITHMÉTIQUE,

CONTENANT

UNE CLAIRE ET FAMILIÈRE EXPLICATION DE SES PRINCIPES, ET SUIVI D'UN TRAITÉ D'ALGÈBRE.

PAR

Jos. LAURIN *ex-Ecclésiastique de Québec, maintenant Etudiant en Droit.*

PREMIÈRE EDITION.

QUEBEC,

1836.

In other regions, the efforts of the liberal professions would combine with those of the clergy to provide the population with an appropriate elementary education. The notary Pierre-Louis Deschenaux joined with the pastor Louis-Marie-Ferdinand Brassard in his effort to establish a parish school which later became the Nicolet Seminary.[108] Up to the time of the definitive takeover of education by the State, enlightened notaries fought against the inadequacies of the school system. They encouraged the founding of schools and, in some instances, even assumed the costs associated with building and establishing them.

***Traité d'arithmétique, contenant une claire et familière explication de ses principes, et suivi d'un traité d'algèbre*, Québec, 1836.**
Bibliothèque municipale de Montréal, salle Gagnon.

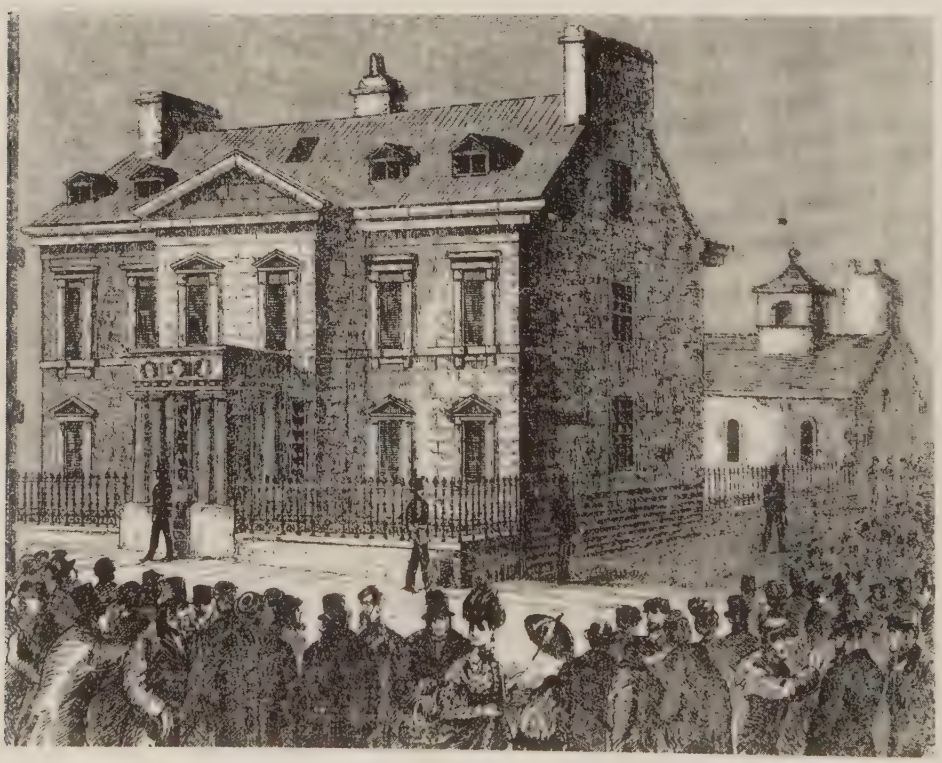
- VI -

In the Political Arena

Adolphe Guillet dit Tourangeau. National Archives of Québec in Québec, Livernois Family Fonds, Photograph by Livernois (P560, S2, P300370-1193).

Adolphe Guillet dit Tourangeau[109] (1831-1894) was elected mayor of Québec in 1863 just before a serious economic crisis. As mayor, he concentrated upon instituting better control over the city's budget and reducing the city's debt. Mayor from 1863 to 1866, he served again from 1869 to 1870. From 1870 to 1874 he served in the House of Commons representing Québec-East.

Engraving of Québec's City Hall in May 1870. *L'Opinion publique*, 26 May 1870. Bibliothèque municipale de Montréal, Salle Gagnon.



The Municipal Scene

The introduction of a municipal system of government, in the first half of the XIXth century, was carried out due largely to the considerable involvement of the notaries in this sector of public life. On account of their profession, but also because they were defined culturally as persons worthy of trust, they played an outstanding role in the establishment of the first municipalities, between 1840 and 1850, as decreed by the Durham Report.

The first municipal council of the city of Québec, set up as early as 1833, was dominated by members of the professional class. The districts of Saint-Louis, the Seminary, Saint-Charles, Sainte-Geneviève, and Dorchester, demarcated by the Act

Edmund Willoughby Sewell, *Trois-Mâts carrés sur le Saint-Laurent* [Square-Rigged Three-Masted Vessel], Québec, 1870, Oil on canvas. Montréal, Musée des Beaux-Arts Collection. Gift of the J.-A. DeSève Estate. Photograph by Christine Gyest (1983.24).

of Incorporation of Québec City in 1831, were represented in that order by the notaries Charles M. Defoy, Louis-Édouard Glackemeyer, Michel Tessier, and Jean Guillet dit Tourangeau.[110]

In the regions, the notary's position within the framework of municipal life assumed many aspects. The first meetings of a Municipal Council were generally held in the notary's office. For example, the town of L'Assomption, capital of the region situated northeast of Montréal, was set up as a municipality by the formation of a Municipal Council in 1846. Not having a place to hold meetings, they used the office of the notary Eugène Archambault for this purpose.[111] Experienced as they were in business matters, notaries were not content with simply playing the role of witnesses; they were sought after to carry out duties of responsibility in these municipalities. They were almost automatically given the office of clerk-treasurer and, in many places, the notary was the only official in the municipality.

Louis Lacoste, first mayor of Boucherville.
National Archives of Québec in Montréal.

As a matter of fact, the history of numerous cities and towns was attached for a quarter or a half-century to the name of a single notary. The civic history of Boucherville, for example, is linked to one name, that of the Honorable Louis Lacoste,[112] recognized as the leading light in guiding that locality. As a man of prominence in his professional

Louis Lacoste (1798-1878) became the first mayor of Boucherville and occupied that post for more than twenty years. He represented the Chambly region in the Legislative Assembly from 1834 to 1864. After serving on the Legislative Council, he became a senator in 1867 until his death in 1878.

career, he had been directly elected by his fellow citizens at the first municipal session in 1857 and became the first mayor of the city.

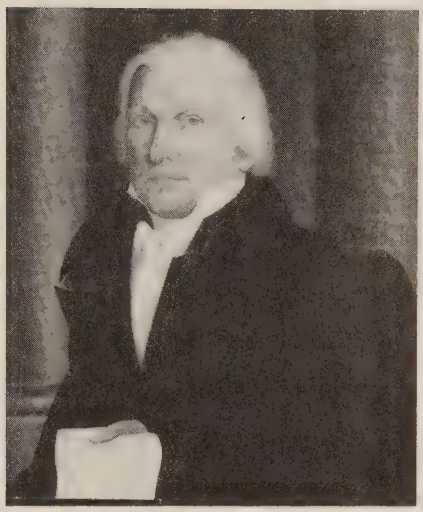
Municipal self-government would remain for a long period of time a real innovation in Lower Canada and those notaries who were the first to exercise this new administrative power could only, at first, contribute their good will in serving the public good. At the beginning of the XXth century, the work of setting up the municipal structure, which preceded the recognition of a municipality by the authorities, would still be the outcome of a labor-intensive process, often the work of a single notary. The zeal of some notaries went so far as to become involved in several municipalities; the notary Desrochers,[113] at the beginning of the XXth century, occupied the position of clerk for the municipalities of Saint-Basile, Saint-Mathias, and Saint-Jean-Baptiste-de-Rouville.

Denis-Émery Papineau (1819-1890), notary of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Montréal from 1843 to 1890.
National Archives of Québec in Montréal, Québec Chamber of Notaries Fonds (P-183\7).

The unshakeable attachment of notaries to their region, went far beyond their civic functions and the organization of the municipality. A pioneer of the city of Alma, the notary J.-Alphonse Gingras,[114] encouraged companies to set up business in his region, most notable among them the Québec Development Corporation whose accredited notary he became. He had also been personally involved in the municipal organization of Saint-Joseph-d'Alma, recognized as a city in 1924 and whose clerk he would become. Notaries thus very often constituted themselves as agents of economic development for their region and, in doing so, dominated the public life of their communities. Nor did they hesitate to enter the political arena in order to promote or defend the needs of their community.

J.-Alphonse Gingras (1878-1976).
Société d'histoire du Lac-Saint-Jean Collection.

The National Scene



Louis Bourdages.
Jean-Baptiste Roy-Audy, oil on canvas, 1834 C, Photograph by Patrick Altman, Musée du Québec (77.27).

After the passage of the Constitutional Act of 1791, the members of the first elective assembly were drawn from the new French-Canadian bourgeoisie composed of professional people. Because they held the majority of seats in the Assembly, they soon

Louis Bourdages[115] (1764-1835), a radical *Patriote* leader, participated in the formulation of 92 Resolutions listing the demands of the Assembly which had a French-speaking majority whereas the Legislative Council represented English interests. In this oil painting by J.-B. Roy-Audy,[116] Bourdages is holding the parchment showing the central resolution which demanded that members of the Legislative Council be elected. An orator of great talent, he was an effective debater.

Ouverture du parlement de Québec en 1791.
Assemblée nationale du Québec, Fonds des moyens de communication (Québec) Marc Lajoie et Bernard Vallée (91-706-15).

Louis Lacoste.

Théophile de Coigne.

Joseph-Amable Berthelot.

Jean-Joseph Girouard.

Notaries of this period held liberal ideas. They counseled the *Patriotes* and helped organize the insurrection. Eighteen notaries participated in the Uprisings of 1837-1838 and four of them died on the scaffold.[117]

André Jobin.

André Bouchard-Lavallée.

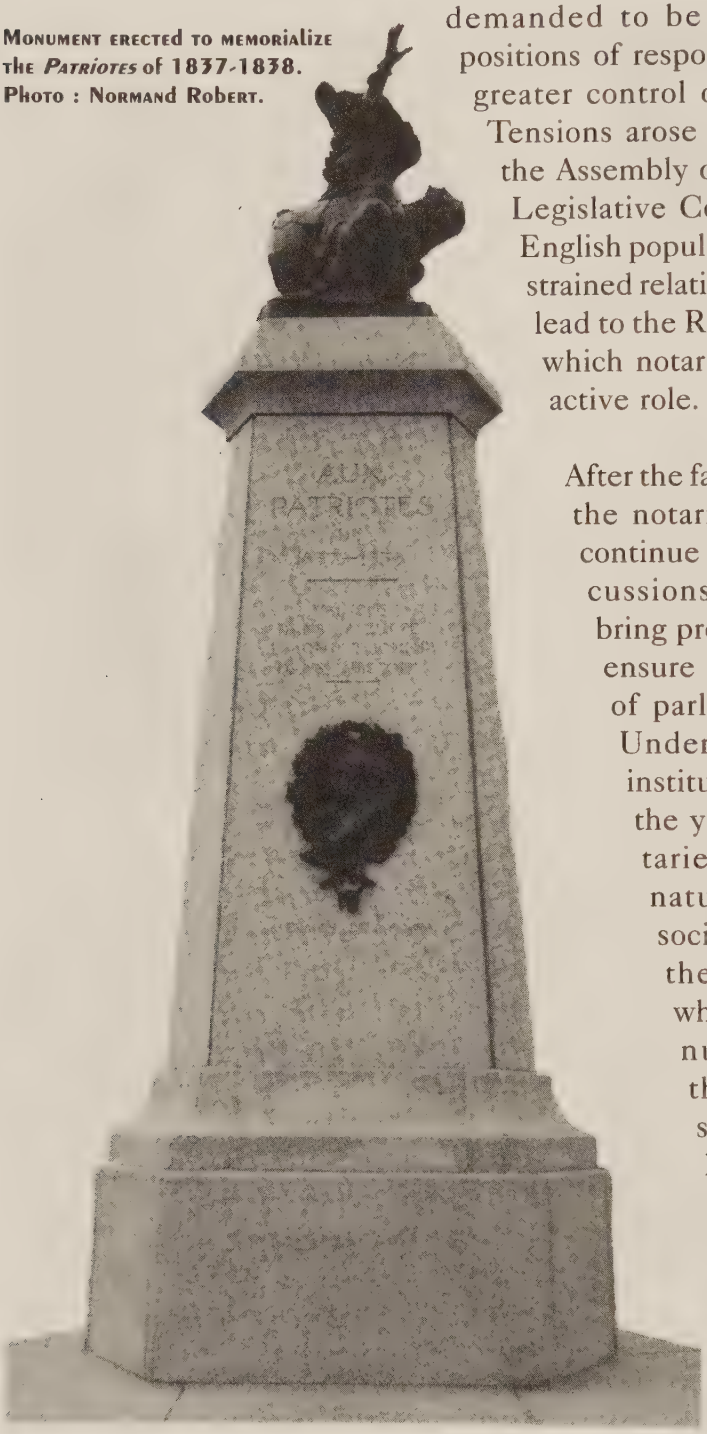
Silhouettes of the *Patriotes* notaries who participated in the Rebellions of 1837-1838. From *Le notaire et la vie quotidienne des origines à 1870* [The Notary and Daily Life From the Beginning to 1870] of Hélène Lafortune and Normand Robert, Montréal, Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Québec, 1986.

André-Augustin Papineau.

André-Benjamin Papineau.

Hyacinthe-F. Charlebois.

Félix Chénier.

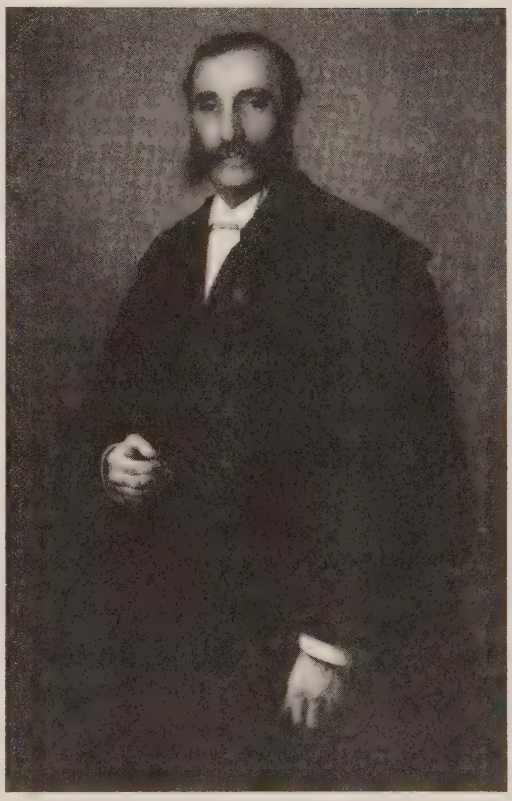


MONUMENT ERECTED TO MEMORIALIZE THE *PATRIOTES* OF 1837-1838. PHOTO : NORMAND ROBERT.

demanded to be named to ministerial positions of responsibility and to obtain a greater control of political institutions. Tensions arose rather quickly between the Assembly on the one hand and the Legislative Council, representing the English population, on the other. These strained relationships would eventually lead to the Rebellions of 1837-1838 in which notaries as a group played an active role.

After the failure of these Rebellions, the notaries would, nonetheless, continue to participate in the discussions of the Assembly and bring pressure to bear in order to ensure the full implementation of parliamentary government. Under the Regime of Union instituted in 1840, and during the years which followed, notaries continued to be the natural leaders of Québec society and to dominate in the electorate. Deputies, who were also notaries, were numerous, and among them can be found personalities of the first rank, like Joseph Girouard, Joseph Laurin, Luc Letellier de Saint-Just, Louis Lacoste, André Jobin, etc. An autonomous political system for Québec, which

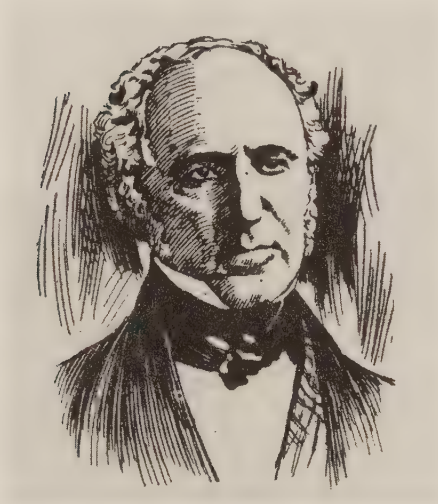
came about as a result of the Confederation of Canada in 1867, would ensure that the French-Canadian elite would obtain the majority of seats in the provincial political system. Starting with the Félix-Gabriel Marchand government in 1897, the Council of Ministers would, little by little, come to be dominated by French-Canadian members of the professions, especially lawyers, doctors, and notaries.[118]



Félix-Gabriel Marchand (1832-1900).
Assemblée nationale du Québec.

Paralleling the stiff battle to achieve their political aspirations, notaries were also fighting, no less rigorously, on another front—that of organizing themselves in a professional body. In the first third of the XIXth century, the notaries Jean-Marie Mondelet and Joseph Laurin had tried in vain to bring to a vote a law organizing the profession. In 1846, Laurin,[119] who was then the representative of Lotbinière County, returned to the attack by proposing a bill to establish the first Chambers of Notaries for the districts of Québec-Gaspésie, Montréal, and Trois-Rivières-Saint-François. After many amendments by the Legislative Council, the first organic law on the profession was finally sanctioned on July 28, 1847. This remarkable

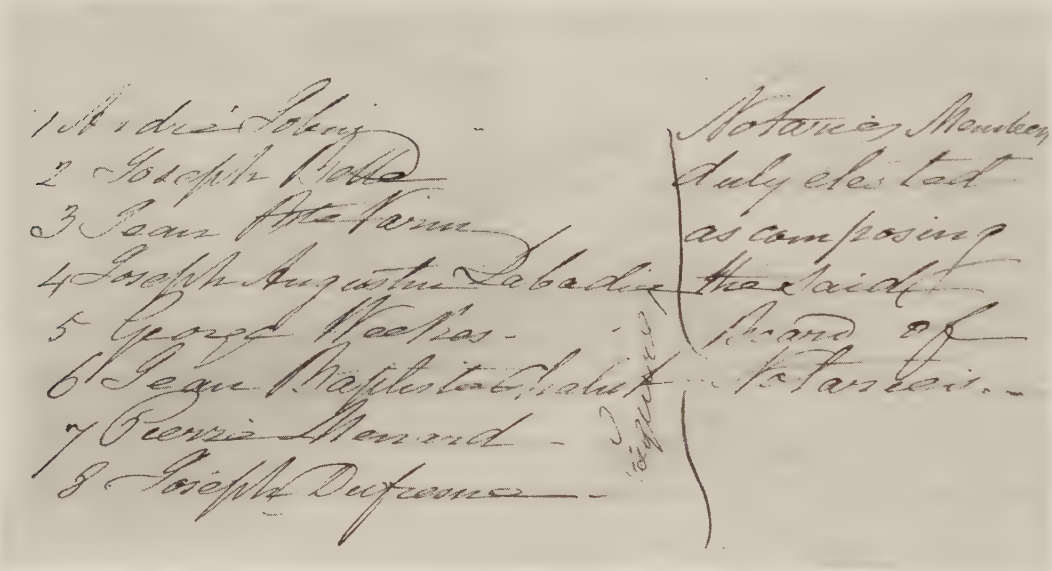
Parallèlement au notariat qu'il exerça pendant plus de 40 ans (1855-1899), Félix-Gabriel Marchand[120] mena une longue carrière politique qui le conduisit à la fonction de Premier Ministre en 1897. From 1894 to 1897, he had served as president of the Chamber of Notaries of Québec.



André Jobin.
Portrait taken from the *Revue du notariat*, volume 3, numéro 1, 1900-1901, p. 25.

legislative effort marked a turning point in the development that the notarial profession was destined to achieve; it was the point of departure of a definite institutional structure which subsequently led to the creation of a single Chamber of Notaries in 1870.

André Jobin[121] (1786-1852) was also a *Patriote*. He later became a member of the Assembly (1843 to 1851) and a supporter of the Reform leader Louis-Hyppolyte Lafontaine. As first president of Montréal Chamber of Notaries, in 1850, he drafted a bill to tighten the power of these Chambers, created in 1847.



A list of the first notaries elected as representatives of the Montréal Chamber which was founded following the adoption of the Law of 28 July 1847. Absent from this list are : Louis Lacoste, Jean-Joseph Girouard, Henri Aubertin and Godfroy Chagnon.
Excerpt from the Register of Foundation, District of Montréal, Chamber of Notaries Fonds, National Archives of Québec in Montréal.

Conclusion

One of the principal objectives of this exhibit consisted in bringing to light the private life of notaries, too little known but, oh how significant, when set in the historical, cultural, and artistic milieu of the XIXth century. From this viewpoint, notaries as a group could be appreciated as professionals, but also contributed to our discovery of an "art of living," that of the French-speaking society of Lower Canada's elite in the middle of the XIXth century.

Contrary to the stilted image sometimes conveyed of them, notaries constitute one of the professions which best adapted itself and made the most of all the resources at its disposal, in spite of the fetters of colonial domination which left its mark on the evolution of the profession. The careers of certain notaries demonstrate in a striking manner that the profession goes hand-in-hand with success as well as social and cultural prestige.

As an open window on society, this exhibit also sought to highlight the omnipresence of this group in public life at the dawn of the creation of the first Chambers of Notaries in 1847. Overall, what emerges is that notaries provided contributions as original as they were significant to community development in all spheres of activity, be they academic, municipal, or political. Although this

exhibit is based upon an abundant documentation from archival holdings and a great many printed sources, it is nonetheless limited in scope and points out the need to pursue this study of both the private as well as the public lives of the notaries of old Québec.

At the conclusion of what has been a wonderful adventure, we are convinced that the history of Québec's notaries and their profession can only be enhanced by putting the corporate history of the profession side by side with the personal lives of its members.

Sources of Illustrations

Private Collections

Mme Eve Beauregard-Malak

Me Danielle Blanchard

Mme Simone Brais

Me Michel Dionne

M. Édouard Doucet

Mme Madeleine Ferron

Mme France Laferrière-Cordeau

M. Yvan Lamonde

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Institutions

Archives nationales du Canada

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Archives nationales du Québec à Québec

Assemblée nationale du Québec

Bibliothèque municipale de Montréal

Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

Caron, Bélanger, Ernst and Young

Centre de recherche Lionel-Groulx

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Société d'histoire du Lac-Saint-Jean

Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke

Université de Montréal - Service des archives

Ville de Québec - Services des archives

Notes

The Private Lives of Notaries

I - Towards the Consolidation of a Homogeneous Group

1. See his biography in *the Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. I, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1966, pp. 612-613.

2. For the factual history of Canadian notaries, see Joseph-Edmond Roy, *Histoire du notariat au Canada depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours*, 4 volumes, Lévis, 1899-1902. See also Julien S. Mackay, "Le notariat au Québec, recherche d'une définition", *Le Gnomon Revue internationale d'histoire du Notariat*, Paris, nº 105, septembre-octobre 1996, pp. 29-36.

3. See his biography in *the Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. I, Québec, Les Presses de L'Université Laval, 1966, pp. 236-238.

4. The work by André Vachon treats in detail this multiplicity of functions by notaries, see *Histoire du notariat canadien 1621-1960*, Québec, Les Presses de L'Université Laval, 1961.

5. Jean-Paul Poisson, *Le notaire au siècle des Lumières*, Paris, Caisse des dépôts et Consignations, 1988, p. 38.

6. See his biography in *the Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. III, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1974, pp. 322-323.

7. See illustrated examples of this in: Lafortune, Hélène, *La situation de la profession notariale dans la région de l'Assomption entre 1800-1850*, M.A., Université de Montréal, 1981 and Michel Guénet, *Les notaires de Laprairie 1760-1850, Etude socio-économique*, M.A., Université de Montréal, 1992.

8. See his biography in *the Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. VII, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1988, pp. 390-391.

9. Pierre-Georges Roy, *Les juges de la province de Québec*, Québec, Gouvernement du Québec, 1933, p. 413.

10. *Ibid.*, p. 419.

11. *Ibid.*, pp. 415 and 421.

12. See his biography in the *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. VI, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1987, pp. 25-26.

13. See his biography in *La Revue du Notariat*, vol. 63, nº 6, janvier 1963, pp. 300-301.

14. Jean-Jacques Lefebvre, "L'Histoire sociale, une dynastie acadienne", *La Revue du Notariat*, vol. 58, nº 9, avril 1956, p. 474.

15. François Guérard, "Les notables trifluviens au dernier tiers du XIXe siècle, stratégies matrimoniales et pratiques distinctives dans un contexte d'urbanisation", Québec, *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, vol. 42, nº 1, été 1988, p. 29.

16. See his biography in the *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. VII, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1988, pp. 483-487.

17. Charles-A. Roberge, "Fils et fille de notaire, Madeleine Ferron, fille de Joseph-Alphonse Ferron", *Notaires d'aujourd'hui*, vol. 4, nº 2, 1991, p. 11.

18. Charles-A. Roberge, "Fils et fille de notaire, Judith, fille d'Amédée Jasmin, notaire", *Notaires d'aujourd'hui*, vol. 3, nº 2, 1990, p. 5.

19. See his biography in *La Revue du Notariat*, vol. 80, nº 6, janvier 1978, pp. 225-245.

II - The Profession As It Was Lived

20. See his biography in the *Dictionnaire biographique de Canada*, vol. V, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1983, pp. 198-199.

21. Jean-Paul Poisson in collaboration with Hélène Lafortune and Normand Robert, "L'activité notariale au Québec en 1749, Etude préliminaire" in *Notaires et Société, travaux d'histoire et de sociologie notariales*, tome 2, Paris, Economica, 1990, pp. 549-585.

22. Georges Bervin, "La vie bourgeoise au siècle dernier", *Cap-aux-Diamants*, vol. 1, nº 4, hiver 1986, pp. 18-19.

23. See note 16.

24. François Guérard, *op. cit.*, p. 34.

25. Christian Roy, *Histoire de l'Asssomption*, L'Assomption, La Commission des Fêtes du 250e anniversaire, 1967, p. 209.

26. Lionel Fortin, "Les origines de la municipalité du village de Longueuil (1848)", Longueuil, Société historique du Marigot, cahier nº 6, novembre 1980, pp. 3-11.

27. Robert Rumilly, *Histoire de Longueuil*, Longueuil, Société d'histoire de Longueuil, 1974, pp. 134, 138 and 140.

28. See his biography in the *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. X, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1972, p. 410.

29. See his biography in the *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. XI, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1982, pp. 729-731.

30. See his biography in the *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. VII, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 1988, pp. 426-428.

31. See note 29.

32. See note 30.

33. Pierre Poulin, *Histoire du mouvement Desjardins et la naissance des caisses populaires (1900-1920)*, volume I, La Société Historique Alphonse Desjardins, Montréal, Québec Amérique, 1990, pp. 186-187.

34. See his biography in *La Revue du Notariat*, vol. 69, nº 9, avril 1967, pp. 427-434.

35. See his biography in *La Revue du Notariat*, vol. 63, nº 4, novembre 1960, pp. 189-192.

36. Charles-A. Roberge, "Fils et fille de notaire, Adélard L'Heureux et son fils Simon", *Notaires d'aujourd'hui*, volume 5, nº 1, 1992, p. 8.

III - At Home

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